

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor's Note: The President was in Coral Gables, FL, on April 23, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, April 23, 2004

Proclamation 7772—National Park Week, 2004

April 16, 2004

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Our system of national parks is entrusted to each generation of Americans. By practicing good management and being faithful stewards of the land, our generation can show that we are worthy of that trust. During National Park Week, we renew our commitment to caring for these treasured natural resources.

God designed our lands to be beautiful, but we must ensure God's beauty is maintained and conserved. Our citizens depend on our dedicated National Park Service employees and their volunteer partners to fulfill this important mission. In 2001 and 2002, volunteers contributed millions of hours of service to our parks by clearing trails, repairing facilities, leading education programs, and assisting visitors. This year's National Park Week theme, "Partners in Stewardship," encourages all Americans to join these volunteer partners in helping to look after our nearly 400 national park areas.

The Federal Government is investing more in its national parks now than at any time in its history. To help restore our national parks, my Administration proposed \$4.9 billion in funding over 5 years on needed maintenance and repairs. We have undertaken hundreds of vital park maintenance projects and are planning and executing hundreds more. We are also using a new system of inventory and assessment to identify facilities needing improvements and to measure those improvements as they are implemented.

Our citizens own America's parks, historic sites, battlefields, recreation areas, monuments, and shores, and we want these lands to be accessible and enjoyable for them to visit. We must respect our natural, cultural, and recreational heritage and conserve our parks for future generations. Park maintenance is critical to achieving each of these goals. By modernizing trail systems, we make it possible for people to fully appreciate these remarkable places. By maintaining buildings, roads, and campsites, we ensure our parks remain sources of pride for our citizens, our communities, and our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 18 through April 25, 2004, as National Park Week. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in recognizing the importance of our national parks and to learn more about these areas of beauty, their cultural and historical significance, and the many ways citizens can volunteer to conserve these precious resources.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:43 a.m., April 20, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 21. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7773—National Volunteer Week, 2004

April 16, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. Across our country, citizens are donating their time and talents to improving lives and strengthening communities. During National Volunteer Week, we recognize and celebrate those who serve a cause greater than self.

This year's theme, "Volunteers Inspire by Example," highlights the role of volunteers in encouraging others to serve. Last year, more than 63 million Americans gave their time to helping in their communities, an increase of 4 million from the prior year. Through the dedicated efforts of America's volunteers, we are building a culture of service, responsibility, and compassion, particularly among our young people.

Volunteers can make a difference in many ways—by mentoring a child, caring for the ailing and elderly, building a playground, or caring for the environment. I created the USA Freedom Corps to help Americans find opportunities to volunteer. As I travel around our country, I am honored to meet citizens of all ages who volunteer through programs such as the Citizen Corps, AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and the Peace Corps, as well as many other organizations. Their acts of kindness have a profound effect on people's lives and on the future of our country. To recognize those who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to volunteer service, my Council on Service and Civic Participation presents individuals, families, and groups with the President's Volunteer Service Award. This award is a tribute to those whose outstanding efforts are helping make our country a better place.

America's volunteers set a fine example for our Nation, and I encourage all Americans to look for a challenge in their communities and step forward to lend a hand.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by

the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 18 through April 24, 2004, as National Volunteer Week. I call on all Americans to recognize and celebrate the important work that volunteers do every day across our country. I also encourage those who have not yet answered the call to explore ways to get involved.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:44 a.m., April 20, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 17, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on April 21.

The President's Radio Address

April 17, 2004

Good morning. For the past year, the September the 11th Commission has met to examine the facts surrounding the terrorist attack on our Nation. I look forward to the Commission's report, and I expect it to contain important recommendations for preventing future attacks.

One lesson our Nation has already learned is that law enforcement and intelligence personnel must be allowed to share more information, so that we can better pursue terrorists inside the United States. In the weeks after September the 11th, Congress made essential reforms by passing the USA PATRIOT Act. That vital legislation gained overwhelming bipartisan support in the House of Representatives and passed the Senate by a vote of 98 to one.

The PATRIOT Act tore down the artificial wall between the FBI and CIA and enhanced their ability to share the information needed to hunt terrorists. The PATRIOT Act also marked a major shift in law enforcement priorities. We're no longer emphasizing only the investigation of past crimes but also the prevention of future attacks. Because we passed the PATRIOT Act, FBI agents can better conduct electronic surveillance and wiretaps

on suspected terrorists. And they now can apply other essential tools—many of which have long been used to investigate white-collar criminals and drug traffickers—to stop terrorist attacks on our homeland.

Our Government's first duty is to protect the American people. The PATRIOT Act fulfills that duty in a way that is fully consistent with constitutional protections. In making America safer, it has helped us defend our liberty. Since I signed the PATRIOT Act into law, Federal investigators have disrupted terror cells in at least six American cities. And since September the 11th, the Department of Justice has charged over 300 persons in terrorism-related investigations. So far, more than half of those individuals have been convicted or pled guilty.

Key elements of the PATRIOT Act are set to expire next year. Some politicians in Washington act as if the threat to America will also expire on that schedule. Yet we have seen what the terrorists intend for us, in deadly attacks from Bali to Mombassa to Madrid. And we will not forget the lessons of September the 11th. To abandon the PATRIOT Act would deprive law enforcement and intelligence officers of needed tools in the war on terror and demonstrate willful blindness to a continuing threat.

Next week, I will travel to Hershey, Pennsylvania, and Buffalo, New York, to meet with the law enforcement officers who see the importance of the PATRIOT Act in their daily duties. They know we must not let down our guard. The war on terror will be won on the offensive, so Congress must renew the PATRIOT Act.

Every hour of the day, America depends on the work of vigilant law enforcement and intelligence personnel. These men and women have difficult and dangerous jobs, and they are performing superbly. In their mission of security, they are joined by members of the Armed Forces who are taking the fight to our enemies overseas. The American people are grateful to all who defend us, and we will continue to give them every tool and resource they need to keep America safe.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:31 p.m. on April 16 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 17. The tran-

script was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 16 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Proclamation 7774—National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2004

April 17, 2004

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

We have made significant advances in reducing crime in our communities. As we continue to work to prevent crime, we also have a duty to help victims as they cope with the trauma of crimes committed against them. Each year during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, we acknowledge the suffering endured by crime victims, and we honor those who bring hope and comfort to victims and their families.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA), landmark legislation that sustains thousands of local victim assistance programs across the country. Established by VOCA, the Crime Victims Fund provides crucial assistance for victims and their families, including counseling, shelter, courtroom advocacy, and help with expenses. In recent years, VOCA has begun addressing issues such as cybercrime, identity theft, hate violence, and stalking. It has also expanded its services to help victims of domestic and international terrorism.

While our Nation works to prevent terrorist activities, we also continue to wage a war against other crimes. In fighting violent crime, we battle the problems of drug abuse, gun violence, and other threats to our safety. We must ensure that when crimes do occur, we always protect the rights of victims. For this reason, my Administration continues to endorse the bipartisan Crime Victims' Rights Amendment. By allowing victims of violent crime to be present and heard at public proceedings and by giving them access to information, such an amendment would guarantee victims' inclusion in the criminal justice

process without threatening the rights of defendants.

While the Congress considers this amendment, my Administration continues to support important resources for victims and public safety. We have directed funding to improve the use of DNA technology to solve crime and identify missing persons; we are employing multiple agency resources to aid victims of trafficking who are forced into slavery and prostitution; and we are encouraging faith-based organizations to provide spiritual and material sustenance to those who have suffered and lost.

This month, I was pleased to sign into law the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004, which creates a separate offense under Federal law for death or injury to an unborn child, in addition to any charges relating to the mother. Across our country, victims are being better served and better protected, but more can be done. I encourage every community to show compassion to victims and their families by providing them with the support they need.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 18 through April 24, 2004, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I encourage all Americans to embrace the cause of victims' rights and help to advance it throughout our society.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:44 a.m., April 20, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 21.

Remarks on Presenting the Commander in Chief's Trophy to the United States Naval Academy Midshipmen

April 19, 2004

Welcome. Please be seated. Nice going, you finally got back. *[Laughter]* I am proud of the Midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy, the proud keepers of the Commander in Chief's Trophy. Welcome. Earning the trophy says a lot about these men. It says you work hard, you set high standards, and you beat Army. *[Laughter]*

I'm honored that Tony Principi, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, has joined us. He is a proud graduate of the Naval Academy.

I appreciate Senator Thad Cochran from Mississippi who is with us, who is on the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors. Senator, thank you for coming. You honor us with your presence.

I appreciate the Governor of Maryland, Bob Ehrlich, joining us today. Thank you for coming, Governor. He claims he was a pretty good linebacker in his day—*[laughter]*—slow but could hit hard. *[Laughter]* Also on the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors is the Lieutenant Governor from Maryland, Michael Steele. Thank you for coming, Michael. Glad you all are here.

Gordon England is with us, the Secretary of the Navy. He reminded me of the time I went to the Army-Navy game in the fall of 2001. It was a miserable experience for the Naval Academy. My, times have changed. *[Laughter]* Mr. Secretary, I'll give you some of the credit.

General Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, is with us. General, thanks for coming. I told the General coming in, his troops in Iraq are performing brilliantly. Thank God we're on the same side.

I want to thank Vice Admiral Rodney Rempt, the Naval Academy Superintendent, for joining us today. Coach Johnson, Paul Johnson, a winning coach, is with us. Coach,

appreciate you being here. Proud you're here.

As I said, it's been a while since the Commander in Chief's Trophy was at the Academy. It turns out that the last time it was there—when Ronald Reagan was the President. And a lot of the players on this team weren't even born. *[Laughter]* That's a long time ago for them. *[Laughter]* It's not so long ago for some of us older fellows.

I—here's what I found interesting about this team and its captain, Greg Cooper, that the night after you beat Army, Cooper flies to Colorado Springs to pick up the trophy. That's called desire. *[Laughter]* It turns out that Cooper wasn't sure how big the trophy was and that it was too heavy for the flight home. So he rents a truck and drives the trophy from Colorado Springs to Annapolis. When we recruit the finest, we look for determination in the U.S. military, and we have found it in Captain Cooper.

I've watched some of your games on TV. The first scouting report I got, however, on the mighty Midshipmen football team was from Number 41—that would be President George H.W. Bush—who went to see the Rice game. I don't know if you remember the Rice game, but Navy beat a pretty darn good team by 32 points in Houston. He said, "Prepare the grounds for the arrival of the Midshipmen this year to receive the Commander in Chief Trophy." I said, "Okay." *[Laughter]*

One of the things that the young men at the—and women at the Naval Academy learn is leadership, how important it is to be a leader, what it means to lead, how one sets standards and calls people to a higher calling. That's what we expect of the officers who wear our uniforms, and that's what Coach Johnson has taught the young men who play football for the Naval Academy. He believes in high standards. His view is: Failure is not an option; success is what we aim for.

He had some great individual stars on this team but, obviously, was able to say to those stars, "You're playing for something greater than yourself. You're playing for the team, so that perhaps, if you do what I ask you to do, and if you work hard enough, you can come to the White House and receive the Commander in Chief's Trophy."

Coach Johnson, you have set a high standard. You and your team has achieved one of the most dramatic turnarounds in NCAA football history. And it is my honor to welcome you and your team and your leadership qualities here into the East Room of this great house of the people.

You know, I know that every player works hard to work—to win on Saturday afternoons. And that's vital if you're a football player. I mean, what the heck, you might as well work hard so you can win. I don't know a lot of people who work hard so they can go out and lose. But one of the things that I know you know is taking place now is that you're preparing to lead our Nation in a time of war, that you wear uniforms of football so you can—and you'll wear a uniform of the United States of America as we fight the first war of the 21st century. It is the teamwork that you're learning on the field that will enable you to lead others to make America more secure. That's the lesson you're learning as you became great football players.

I'm proud of your predecessors. Many of the people who played football at the Academy are now serving overseas. They're serving brilliantly in zones of combat. They're doing everything they can to be as tough and as compassionate as we expect our soldiers to be. They're tough on the one hand and compassionate on the other. We have got a mission in this Nation, and that is not only to make ourselves secure from an enemy which hates our freedom but, at the same time, spread freedom so that the world will be more peaceful so people have a chance to live with dignity and hope. And members of the classes before you, members of the great Naval Academy classes, understand that mission, and they're accomplishing it with great class and dignity.

Many of the seniors here will be given that same opportunity to serve our Nation. And I just want to tell you the Nation will be grateful for your service, be grateful for your sacrifices, will be grateful of what you do to make the world a better place for all of us to live.

And now it's my honor, Coach, to present the Commander in Chief's Trophy to winners, people who achieved the big dream, people who will represent our country in the

finest of Navy traditions. May God bless them, and may God bless their families. And May God continue to bless the United States of America.

Coach Johnson.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:02 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Remarks Announcing the Nomination of John D. Negroponte To Be Ambassador to Iraq

April 19, 2004

The President. Today I'm announcing my intention to nominate Ambassador John Negroponte as the Ambassador to Iraq. Ambassador Negroponte now serves our Nation at the United Nations as the Ambassador there. He has done a really good job of speaking for the United States to the world about our intentions to spread freedom and peace. John Negroponte is a man of enormous experience and skill. Therefore, I'm comfortable in asking him to serve in this very difficult assignment. No doubt in my mind he can handle it. No doubt in my mind he'll do a very good job. And there's no doubt in my mind that Iraq will be free and democratic and peaceful.

So, John, thank you for agreeing to serve your country yet once again. I'm proud of your service. Good luck to you. Thank you.

Ambassador Negroponte. Thank you very much, Mr. President. Thank you.

The President. You bet.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:51 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks in Hershey, Pennsylvania

April 19, 2004

Thank you all very much. Thanks for letting me come. *[Laughter]* It's good to be here in Hershey, Pennsylvania. For a fellow who likes chocolate—*[laughter]*—this is a special place. I know that Milton Hershey, who was one of the country's great entrepreneurs, would be incredibly proud of the way this community has prospered and

grown. I bet he'd be especially proud of the hospital that we saw coming in. The Senators with whom I was traveling pointed out the fantastic hospital facilities. I'm told that this is a community where people really care deeply about their neighbors and the quality of life in the community in which they live. And so I want to thank the citizens from Hershey for being so gracious and warm and setting such a good example.

I want to thank the community leaders who are here from around the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I appreciate your service to our country. It's a tough job to serve at the local level. *[Laughter]* When things go wrong, your name is right there in the phonebook. *[Laughter]* But we share a common calling, and that's public service, serving our Nation. I want to thank you for doing what you're doing. It's such an honor, isn't it, to serve the people of our respective communities and our Nation.

And you and I know what our first responsibility is. The first responsibility, whether it be Washington, DC, or Washington Township, is the safety of our citizens. That's a solemn duty we have, to work together to make sure that our Nation is as secure as it can possibly be.

The task, our mutual tasks, our joint obligation changed dramatically on September the 11th, 2001. There's now an urgency to our duty. We have a urgent duty to do everything we can to fulfill our solemn obligation.

There are people here in this world who still want to hurt us. See, they can't stand America. They can't stand us because we love certain things and we're not going to change. We love our freedom. We love the fact that we can worship freely any way we see fit. We love the fact that we can speak our minds freely. We love our free political process. We love every aspect of freedom, and we refuse to change. These terrorists will not be stopped by their own conscience. They don't have a conscience. But they will be stopped. They will be stopped because our great Nation is resolute abroad, we're vigilant at home, and we are absolutely determined to prevail.

I appreciate Donna's invitation and her introduction. She handled it very well. *[Laughter]* I want to thank Keith Hite, the executive

director, for having me here as well. Keith, thank you for your hospitality. I want to thank the boards of directors, the trustees, and the members of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.

I appreciate the first-responders who are here today. Thank you for your service.

I've traveled in a small little limo from the airport with Senators Specter and Santorum, two really fine United States Senators from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I flew down from Washington with Congressman Todd Platts and Congressman Bill Shuster from Pennsylvania. Thank you both for traveling with me. I am grateful that Congressman Tim Holden has joined us today. Thank you for being here, Congressman. I appreciate you coming.

Attorney General Jerry Pappert is here with us. General, I appreciate you being here today. Charlie Dent, a member of the statehouse, is with us; Paul Semmel—actually, Dent is in the State senate, Semmel is in the statehouse. These are members of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees. These are people in the State legislature with whom you work to make sure the State of Pennsylvania is properly prepared for anything that may come along.

I appreciate so very much the other State and local officials who are here. Thanks for taking time to come.

I appreciate Mike Lutz, who is the president of the Fraternal Order of Police Pennsylvania State Lodge, for being here. Mike, thank you for your time, and thank you for coming.

Two other people I want to mention before I get going. [Laughter] I had the honor of meeting Major Dick Winters. Dick Winters is a World War II veteran. There's an HBO miniseries called "The Band of Brothers." He led the platoon in World War II. I told him when I got off the airplane, it was such an honor to meet him. It's such a fine example that he and others have set for those brave souls who now wear our Nation's uniform. Major Winters, I'm glad you're here. And I also want to thank the other members of our military who joined us today as well. Thank you all for coming.

When I landed, I met a fellow at the airport named Patrick Leonard. Where are you, Pat? Oh there you are, sure. How quickly they forget. [Laughter] You're wondering why I mentioned Pat Leonard? I'll tell you why. The strength of America is in the hearts and souls of our citizens. That's our strength. Listen, people say America is strong because of our military. We got a strong military, and I intend to keep it that way. They say America is strong because we're the wealthiest nation. That's good. We need to keep it that way. But the real reason we're strong is because of the hearts and souls of American citizens. That's why we're strong.

Pat Leonard volunteers. He takes time out of a busy life and a family life to volunteer at the fire department. That's what he does. He's a volunteer fireman. As a matter of fact, he is the chief of the Hershey Volunteer Fire Company. He has been doing this for 26 years. It's more than just volunteering for the fire department, though, see. He also volunteers to mentor children by being a coach at all kinds of different sports teams.

The reason I bring up Pat—and I want to thank his mom and dad for being here, by the way, and two brothers who happen to be volunteer firemen. The reason I bring him up is because I want our citizens to understand that if you really want to help America, take time out of your life and help save a soul. And you can do it all kinds of ways. You can mentor a child. You can help the elderly. You can volunteer at the fire department. You can be a Boy Scout or Girl Scout leader. There's all kinds of ways you can help. I bet most of you are doing this already. You represent the true strength of the country. We're a compassionate, decent nation, a nation of people who are willing to love their neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

As we gather this afternoon, we're 140 miles away from Shanksville, Pennsylvania. This is a place where many innocent lives ended. Shanksville is also the place where American citizens stood up to evil, charged their attackers, and began the first counter-offensive in the war on terror. Those passengers on Flight 93 showed that the spirit of America is strong and brave in the face

of danger, and this Nation will always honor their memory.

The best way to secure our homeland, the best way for us to do our duty, is to stay on the offensive against the terrorist network. We began the offense shortly after September the 11th. We're carrying out a broad strategy, a worldwide strategy to bring the killers to justice. The best way to secure America is to bring them to justice before they hurt us again, which is precisely what the United States of America will continue to do.

Two-thirds of known Al Qaida leaders have been captured or killed. We're making progress. It's a different kind of war than the war that Major Winters fought in. This is a war against people who will hide in a cave, a war against people who hide in the shadows of remote cities or big cities, and then they strike and they kill. And they kill innocent people. They have no—as I said, they have no conscience. They have no sense of guilt. But they also know we're on their trail, and they will find out there is no cave or hole deep enough to hide from American justice.

We must be determined in this, and we've got a lot of really good people, a lot of good people on the move. We're also working with nations from around the world, sharing intelligence, making it clear that if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist.

By the way, when the President of the United States says something, he better mean it. And when I said to the world, "If you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist," I meant exactly what I said. And the Taliban found out. It wasn't all that long ago that Afghanistan was a training center for Al Qaida killers. It was a safe haven. It's a country, by the way, that was run by a brutal—brutal—dictatorship. The Taliban had a perverted view of the world. They hated—they must have hated women. Women were given no rights. Young girls did not go to school. It was a barbaric regime. So not only did we uphold doctrine that said, "If you harbor a terrorist or train a terrorist or feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist," but we liberated people as well in Afghanistan. People are free in that country. Young girls now go to school for the first

time in their life, thanks to the incredible compassion of the United States of America.

There's another very important lesson about September the 11th that we must never forget, and that is, we can no longer take threats that may exist overseas for granted. In other words, when the President and/or anybody else in authority sees a threat, we must take it seriously. Now, that doesn't mean every threat must be dealt with by military option, but every threat must be viewed as a potential problem to America. See, September the 11th changed the equation. It used to be that oceans would protect us, that we saw a threat, we didn't have to worry about it because there was two vast oceans. And we could pick and choose as to how we deal with the threat. That changed on September the 11th.

These are vital lessons for our citizens to understand what took place. See, we saw a threat, based upon intelligence, in Iraq. The intelligence said there's a threat. The very same intelligence looked at by the United States Congress caused them to reach the same conclusion. The United Nations Security Council looked at the intelligence and said, "Saddam is a threat." And so, for about the—I can't remember how many times they said it, but they said, "Disarm. See, you're a threat. Disarm." There's a reason why a lot of people made the conclusion. It was not only based upon intelligence, it was based upon the fact that he hated America, that he was willing to pay suiciders to go kill people in Israel, that he actually used weapons of mass destruction on his own people. See, this is a guy who used it before.

And the equation changed after September the 11th. And so, you see, I was in a position where I either took the word of a madman or took the actions necessary to defend America. And given that choice, I will defend America every time.

We will defeat the enemy there so we don't have to face them here. And at the same time, we will work to see that Iraq is free, and that's really important for our long-term security. See, free nations are peaceful nations. Free nations are nations in which people can find hope and a chance to raise their families, just the way moms and dads want to raise their families here in America.

That's why we love freedom, and that's why we think freedom is such an important part of a peaceful world. This is an historic mission, in my judgment. This is an historic opportunity.

I told the story, I think, at one of these endless press conferences I had last week—[laughter]—where—I love them, of course—where—[laughter]—where I had dinner with Prime Minister Koizumi of Japan. And it was at that dinner that we were talking about the situation in North Korea. And it dawned on me during the course of the conversation with my friend that, if we hadn't got it right after World War II, would I have been having this conversation with the Prime Minister about a common threat we share? And it probably wouldn't have. If we hadn't secured the peace in a proper way after World War II, I don't think—maybe I'll be wrong—but I don't think I would have been having the very kind of conversation I was having with Prime Minister Koizumi. And it dawned on me during that conversation, when we get it right in Iraq, some American President will be sitting down with a duly-elected official from Iraq talking about how to keep the peace in that troubled part of the world. It's an historic opportunity to spread democracy and hope as an alternative to hatred and terror and violence for export.

And it's a difficult mission. It's tough work. It's incredibly hard, as we have seen on our television screens the last couple of weeks. There's a reason why. Freedom frightens people who are terrorists. The worst thing that can happen to a society, if you're a terrorist, is for the society to be free. And it scares them. Remember, I told you, they'll strike us because of our love for freedom. Well, they strike out because a free society is emerging in the heart of a region that is desperate for freedom and democracy.

And we're facing supporters of the outlaw cleric, remnants of Saddam's regime that are still bitter that they don't have the position to run the torture chambers and rape rooms and get the special privileges they've had for all these years. Of course, there's foreign terrorists there, trying to prevent the rise of a free government in the heart of the Middle East. They will fail—they will fail. They will fail because they do not speak for the vast

majority of Iraqis who do not want to replace one tyrant with another. They will fail because the will of our coalition is strong. They will fail because America leads a coalition full of the finest military men and women in the world.

Thousands of Pennsylvanians have given their service in the war on terror, including more than 6,000 National Guard and Reserve members on active duty today. I want to thank their families for enduring the long deployments and separations and sacrifices. I want to thank the men and women who wear the uniform. Our Nation is grateful for your sacrifice. We are grateful that you have volunteered to make America a more secure country and the world a more peaceful and free place.

The enemy is still active. Think about Bali and Istanbul, or as we saw in the murder of 200 citizens in Madrid, the terrorists use violence to spread fear and disrupt elections. They want us to panic. That's their intent. Their intent is to say, "Let's create panic among the civilized world." They want nations to turn upon each other, civilized nations to argue and debate about the mission. You know, they're not going to shake our will. I'll say as plainly as I can to them: You'll never shake the will of the United States of America. We're not going to forget September the 11th. We are determined. We are resolute, and we will bring you to justice.

And in the process, we've made some fundamental changes in the way we defend ourselves. We reorganized—or organized a new Department of Homeland Security to protect the country. It was hard work in the Senate. I want to thank Senator Specter and Senator Santorum and the Members of the House who are here. We had a big debate about it, but it was the right thing to do. It was the right thing to bring agencies involved with the protection of the homeland under one umbrella agency, so we can better coordinate and better communicate and better strategize as to how to protect the homeland.

And I picked a good man to run—become the first Secretary of Homeland Security. Looks like I don't even have to say his name. [Laughter] You trained him well. [Laughter] No, Ridge is doing a great job.

Since 2001, we've tripled funding for homeland security. That's important. We've trained and deployed screeners at airports, put thousands of air marshals on flights. We're now fingerprinting visitors when they come to America and compare the prints to those of suspected terrorists and violent criminals. In other words, we've made prevention of terror an important priority of our Government—just doing everything we can to make sure that we're as safe as we possibly can be.

The FBI now has the prevention of terrorist attacks as their number one priority. They'll still chase down criminals and make a case, but since we're at war and since this is a big, free country, the priority of the Federal Government is now the prevention of another attack. And we're making sure they got the resources necessary to do their job.

We're standing behind our first-responders. Since the moment our country was attacked, our Nation's police and firefighters and emergency service personnel have played a critical role in the defense of America against any threat of terror. They really have. It was a—we saw the incredible bravery of the first-responders in New York City. I think it—I think those who are firefighters and police and emergency personnel gained a new degree of respect on the streets of the cities throughout our country, when they witnessed the great courage of their brothers who rushed into collapsing buildings. We appreciate the fact that these men and women understand they could be on the frontline against terror at any moment, that they have accepted great responsibilities. And we have responsibilities to you as well.

I've proposed an additional \$3.6 billion for terrorism preparedness grants. This is a way to help our first-responders get ready. The money needs to make sure we don't get it stuck in the process, stuck from going from the Federal Government to the State Government to the local government. This money needs to get the local communities in a timely fashion so you can put it to good work.

After September the 11th, we took another vital step to fight terror, and that's what I want to talk about today. I want to talk about the PATRIOT Act. It's a law that I signed

into law. It's a law that was overwhelmingly passed in the House and the Senate. It's a law that is making America safer. It's an important piece of legislation.

First, before September the 11th, law enforcement, intelligence, and national security officials were prevented by legal and bureaucratic restrictions from sharing critical information with each other and with State and local police departments.

We had—one group of the FBI knows something, but they couldn't talk to the other group in the FBI because of law and bureaucratic interpretation. You cannot fight the war on terror unless all bodies of your government at the Federal, State, and local level are capable of sharing intelligence on a real-time basis. We could not get a complete picture of terrorist threats, therefore. People had—different people had a piece of the puzzle, but because of law, they couldn't get all the pieces in the same place. And so we removed those barriers, removed the walls. You hear the talk about the walls that separated certain aspects of Government. They have been removed by the PATRIOT Act, and now, law enforcement and intelligence communities are working together to share information to better prevent an attack on America.

And let me give you an interesting story. In late 2001, in Portland, Oregon—and today, I was briefed on this story by the—the Federal prosecutor up there in Oregon—or over there. I'm used to Texas, still. [Laughter] Everything was “up there.” [Laughter]

Police in Portland, Oregon, turned up evidence about a local man who was planning attacks on Jewish schools and synagogues and on American troops overseas. The initial information was passed to the FBI and to intelligence services—quickly passed—who analyzed the threat and took action. See, the PATRIOT Act allowed for unprecedented cooperation, and because of the surveillance tools enacted by the PATRIOT Act, the FBI learned that this guy was a part of a seven-man terrorist cell. In other words, the PATRIOT Act gave local—Federal law enforcement officials, in this case—the capacity to better understand the intelligence and to

better understand the nature of the terrorist cell. And now the cell has been disrupted.

I'll tell you another good thing that happened. Before September the 11th, investigators had better tools to fight organized crime than to fight international terrorism. That was the reality. For years, law enforcement used so-called roving wiretaps to investigate organized crime. You see, what that meant is if you got a wiretap by court order—and by the way, everything you hear about requires court order, requires there to be permission from a FISA court, for example.

So the crime boss, he'd be on the cell phone, maybe thinking somebody is listening to him, would toss the cell phone and get on another cell phone. And the law allowed for our drug-busters to follow the person making the calls, not just a single phone number. So it made it more difficult for a drug lord to evade the net that we were trying to throw on him to capture him with.

We couldn't use roving wiretaps for terrorists. In other words, terrorists could switch phones, and we couldn't follow them. The PATRIOT Act changed that, and now we have the essential tool. See, with court approval, we have long used roving wiretaps to lock up monsters—mobsters. Now we have a chance to lock up monsters, terrorist monsters. *[Laughter]*

The PATRIOT Act authorizes what are called delayed notification search warrants. I'm not a lawyer, either. *[Laughter]* These allow law enforcement personnel, with court approval, to carry out a lawful search without tipping off suspects and giving them a chance to flee or destroy evidence. It is an important part of conducting operations against organized groups.

Before September the 11th, the standards for these kind of warrants were different around the country. It made it hard to have kind of a national strategy to chase down what might be a terrorist group. The PATRIOT Act provided a clear national standard and now allows these warrants to be used in terrorism cases. And they're an important tool for those who are on the frontline of using necessary means, with court order, to find these terrorists before they hurt us. Look, what I'm telling you is, is that the PATRIOT Act made it easier for people we've

tasked to protect America. That's what we want. We want people to have the tools necessary to do the job we expect them to do.

Before September the 11th, law enforcement could more easily obtain business and financial records of white-collar criminals than of suspected terrorists. See, part of the way to make sure that we catch terrorists is we chase money trails. And yet it was easier to chase a money trail with a white-collar criminal than it was a terrorist. The PATRIOT Act ended this double standard, and it made it easier for investigators to catch suspected terrorists by following paper trails here in America.

And finally, before September the 11th, Federal judges could often impose tougher prison terms on drug traffickers than they could on terrorists. The PATRIOT Act strengthened the penalties for crimes committed by terrorists, such as arsons or attacks on powerplants and mass transit systems. In other words, we needed to get—we needed to send the signal, at the very minimum, that our laws are going to be tough on you. When we catch you, you've got a problem, in America. See, that's part of prevention.

I just outlined five reasons why the PATRIOT Act made sense. These are practical reasons. These are ways to give our law enforcement officers the tools necessary to do their job so that we can better protect America, and we're making progress.

The last 2½ years, we've dismantled terrorist cells in Oregon and New York and North Carolina and Virginia. We prosecuted terrorist operatives and supportives in California, Ohio, Texas, and Florida. In other words, we're using these tools to do the best we can possibly do to protect our fellow citizens. We've frozen or seized about \$200 million in terrorist assets around the world. When I say "we," this is now not only United States but friends and allies. We're cutting off their money. We're following—what was that movie?—"Follow the Money." That's what we're doing, to make sure that we do our job.

I want you to keep in mind what I've just told you about the PATRIOT Act the next time you hear somebody attacking the PATRIOT Act. The PATRIOT Act defends our liberty. The PATRIOT Act makes it able for

those of us in positions of responsibility to defend the liberty of the American people. It's essential law.

The reason I bring it up is because many of the PATRIOT Act's antiterrorism tools are set to expire next year, including key provisions that allow our intelligence and law enforcement agencies to share information. In other words, Congress passed it and said, "Well, maybe the war on terror won't go on very long," and therefore, these tools are set to expire. The problem is, the war on terror continues. And yet some Senators and Congressmen not only want to let the provisions expire, but they want to roll back some of the act's permanent features. And it doesn't make any sense. We can't return to the days of false hope. The terrorists declared war on the United States of America, and the Congress must give law enforcement all the tools necessary to protect the American people.

So I'm starting today to call on the United States Congress to renew the PATRIOT Act and to make all of its provisions permanent. And not only that, there are some additional things that Congress should do—must do, in my judgment—to strengthen authorities and penalties to defend our homeland. There's something called administrative subpoenas. This is the authority to request certain types of time-sensitive records without the delay of going through a judge or a grand jury. These are critical for many types of investigations. For example, today they're used for health care fraud cases. In other words, those who investigate can use an administrative subpoena to run down somebody cheating the health care system. Yet, in terrorism cases, where speed is of the essence, officials are barred from using administrative subpoenas.

That doesn't seem to make much sense to me. The American people expect us to do our jobs. It seems like we ought to have the very same tool necessary to run down a bad doc as to run down a terrorist. And so when Congress considers the PATRIOT Act, they ought to be thinking about ways to make sure that we've got the capacity of catching terrorists.

People charged with certain crimes today, including some drug offenses, are eligible for bail only in limited circumstances, but ter-

rorist-related crimes are not on that list. Think about what that means. Suspected terrorists could be released, free to leave the country or worse, before their trial. And that doesn't make any sense. The disparity makes no sense. If a dangerous drug dealer can be held without bail, the Congress should allow the same treatment for terrorists. If we want to protect our homeland, let's make sure these good people have got the tools necessary to do so.

And there's another example I want to share with you. Under existing law, the death penalty applies to many serious crimes that result in death, including sexual abuse and certain drug-related offenses. Some terrorist crimes that result in death do not qualify for capital punishment. That makes no sense to me. We ought to be sending a strong signal: If you sabotage a defense installation or nuclear facility in a way that takes an innocent life, you ought to get the death penalty, the Federal death penalty.

The reason why Congress must act is because we have a difficult job protecting America. The reason why is because we're an open society that values freedom. We stand for the—we're a beacon of freedom, and we say you can—our country is an open country. And yet that makes us vulnerable—in itself, makes us vulnerable. We got a lot of borders to protect. We got to be right 100 percent of the time, at the Federal level and the State level and the local level. We've got to be right 100 percent of the time to protect America, and the terrorists have only got to be right one time, as 168 innocent men, women, and children found out in Oklahoma City. Different forms of terror—we've got to be vigilant against terror at all costs.

And there's only one path to safety, and that's the path of action. Congress must act with the PATRIOT Act. We must continue to stay on the offense when it comes to chasing these killers down and bringing them to justice, and we will. We've got to be strong and resolute and determined. We will never show weakness in the face of these people who have no soul, who have no conscience, who care less about the life of a man or a woman or a child. We've got to do everything we can here at home, and there's no doubt

in my mind that, with the Almighty's blessings and hard work, that we will succeed in our mission.

The reason I say that is because I have seen the spirit of this country. I've seen the resolve of our Nation. I know the nature of the men and women who proudly call themselves Americans, people who can rise to any challenge, people who are tough, people who are determined, people who are resolute, and people, at the same time, who are compassionate and decent and honorable. And it is my honor to be the President of a country full of such people.

May God bless your work. May God continue to bless our country. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:20 p.m. at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Donna L. Mindek, president, and R. Keith Hite, executive director, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors; Pennsylvania State Attorney General Jerry Pappert; State Senator Charles W. Dent and State Representative Paul W. Semmel of Pennsylvania; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and Muqtada Al Sadr, Iraqi Shiite cleric whose militia engaged in an uprising in Iraq in early April. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Dinner for Senator Arlen Specter in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

April 19, 2004

The President. Thanks for coming. I'm here to say it as plainly as I can: Arlen Specter is the right man for the United States Senate.

Thank you all for coming out. It's good to be back in "Knowledge City." [Laughter] The last time I was here, Jerome Bettis was in the crowd. [Laughter] Remember "Bettis the Bus"? He said, "Keep it short, President." [Laughter] I listened.

I do have some things I want to say. I first of all appreciate my friendship with Arlen Specter. He's been a friend for quite a while. I'm proud to campaign for him. We've got a good, frank relationship. The last time—one of the last times we flew here to the great State of Pennsylvania, as we were coming down the stairs together, I took a look at a pretty ratty looking coat he was wearing.

[Laughter] I said, "Senator, if we're going to keep company, I'd advise you to upgrade your wardrobe." [Laughter] He's a frugal man. [Laughter] He was telling me he wore that coat back in the Korean war. [Laughter] Turns out, his family got the word and bought him a new coat, and you're looking awfully sharp today. [Laughter]

I'm proud to tell you I think he's earned another term as a United States Senator. He is a tough and principled legislator. He can get things done for the people of Pennsylvania. He's a little bit independent-minded sometimes. [Laughter] There's nothing wrong with that. He is dedicated to the people of this State. He truly is. We spend a lot of time together. He's always talking about what he can do for the people here.

I—let me tell you what, I can count on this man. See, that's important. He's a firm ally when it matters most. I can look at Arlen Specter and say, "I need your help, Mr. Senator," and he'll give it.

I appreciate you coming tonight. I urge you to go back to your neighborhoods and turn out the vote. There's no doubt in my mind he'll win the primary, and he'll win the general election, and that's good for Pennsylvania.

Seems like this administration is paying attention to Pittsburgh. After all, the Vice President was here over the weekend. [Laughter] And I want to thank you for being hospitable to the great Vice President. He is the finest Vice President our Nation has ever had. Mother heard me say that the other day, and she said, "Wait a minute, boy." [Laughter]

I'm a man of strong opinions. I tell it like I see it. Laura Bush is the finest First Lady our country has ever had as well. She sends her very best to Arlen and thanks you all for coming tonight as well. She knows what kind of a good working relationship I have with Senator Specter. She's, by the way—she's just a joy to be around. She is a great comforting soul who—I'm just lucky she said "yes" when I asked her to marry me. [Laughter]

I want to thank—I'm proud to be up here with the junior Senator. [Laughter] He is a lot younger than we are. [Laughter] But he's doing a great job as well for the people of

Pennsylvania, Rick Santorum. I mean it. I know that Congressman Tim Murphy is here. Tim, thank you for coming. I'm proud you're here.

We've got people running for office here. I want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank the party activists who are here. I want to thank you for what you're going to do to turn out the vote at the primary. I want to thank you for what you're fixing to do come November. See, I'm counting on you.

You need to get out and turn out that vote. This is the kind of State where you can look at your neighbor, whether he be Republican, Democrat, or independent, and convince them to be for us. You need to—you don't worry about party label when it comes to turning out the vote this November. Get people to do their duty. Get out to the grassroots, and get on the phones, and put up the signs. And tell people in this country they have a duty, as people who live in a democracy, to show up to vote.

And when you do, you can tell them this: Tell them in the last 3 years we've accomplished great things. Most importantly, tell them we've got a positive vision.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. Let me finish first, before you make up your mind. *[Laughter]*

You tell them this. You tell them the most important thing is that we have a positive vision for winning the war against terror and for extending peace and freedom throughout this world. We have a positive vision for creating jobs and promoting opportunity and compassion here at home. Arlen and I will leave no doubt where we stand, and we will win in Pennsylvania, and I'm going to win all across the country on November the second.

The last 3 years have brought serious challenges, and we've given serious answers. We came to office with a stock market in decline and an economy headed into recession. We worked with Arlen and Rick and Members of the United States Congress to deliver historic tax relief, and now our economy is the fastest growing of any major industrialized nation in the world.

We uncovered corporate crimes that cost people jobs and their savings. So we passed

strong corporate reforms and made it abundantly clear that we will not tolerate the dishonesty in the boardrooms of America.

We saw war and grief arrive on a quiet September morning. So we pursued the terrorist enemy across the world and captured or killed many key leaders of the Al Qaida network. The rest of them will learn there is no cave or hole deep enough to hide from American justice.

We strengthened our defenses here at home. Arlen Specter helped author a bill to create the Department of Homeland Security. I proudly signed the bill into law and appointed your former Governor, Tom Ridge, as the Secretary of Homeland Security.

We confronted the dangers of state-sponsored terror and the spread of weapons of mass destruction. So we ended two of the most violent and dangerous regimes on Earth. We freed over 50 million people. Once again, America is proud to lead the armies of liberation.

When Dick Cheney and I came to Washington, we found a military that was underfunded and underappreciated. So we gave our military the resources and respect they deserve. And today, no one can question the skill and the strength and the spirit of the United States military.

It is the President's job to confront problems, not to pass them on to future Presidents and future generations.

Great events will turn on this election. The man who sits in the Oval Office will set the course of the war on terror and the direction of our economy. The security and the prosperity of America are at stake.

I'm running against an experienced Senator who has built up quite a record. He's been in Washington long enough to take both sides of just about every issue. *[Laughter]* My opponent voted for the PATRIOT Act, voted for NAFTA, voted for the No Child Left Behind Act, and for the use of force in Iraq. Now, he opposes the PATRIOT Act and NAFTA and the No Child Left Behind Act and the liberation of Iraq. If he could find a third side to an issue, I'm confident he'd take it. *[Laughter]*

When a President speaks, he must mean what he says, and he must be clear. He must

be crystal clear. Someone recently asked the Senator from Massachusetts why he voted against the \$87 billion funding bill to help our troops in Iraq, and here's what he said: "I actually did vote for the 87 billions, before I voted against it." End of quote. *[Laughter]*

The voters are going to have a clear choice in this campaign. It's a choice—it is a choice between keeping the tax relief that has been moving this economy forward or putting the burden of higher taxes back on the American people. It is a choice between an America that leads the world with strength and confidence or an America that is uncertain in the face of danger.

The other side hasn't offered much in the way of strategies to win the war or to grow the economy. You know, I know it's early in the campaign, but thus far, all we've heard is a lot of old bitterness and partisan anger. He's going to find out right quick that anger is not an agenda for the future of America.

I look forward to campaigning with Arlen this fall on an agenda that is based upon our optimism, our confidence, our determination, and our resolve for the future of this country.

A big issue for every family in America is the Federal tax burden. With the largest tax relief since Ronald Reagan was the President, we left more money in the hands that earned it. By spending and investing and to help create new jobs, the American people have used their money far better than the Federal Government would have.

Because of good policies and hard work, our economy is strong, and it is getting stronger. America added 308,000 new jobs in the month of March, the highest monthly job growth total in almost 4 years. Since August, our economy has added over three-quarters of a million new jobs. There's confidence being displayed by our employers. There's rising hope of workers. In the second half of 2003, the economy grew at the fastest rate in nearly 20 years. Manufacturing activity is increasing. The steel industry is strong. Business investment is rising. Disposable income is rising. Inflation is low. Homeownership is at an historic high. The tax relief we passed is working.

When I needed him, he was with me on tax relief.

My opponent took a different view of tax relief. When we passed an increase in the child credit to help families, he voted no. When we reduced the marriage penalty, he voted against it. When we created a lower, 10-percent bracket for working families, he voted against it. When we reduced the tax on dividends that many seniors depend upon it, Senator Kerry voted no. When we gave small businesses a tax incentive to expand and hire, he voted against it. We're beginning to see a pattern here. *[Laughter]*

But when tax increases are proposed, it's a lot easier to get a "yes" vote out of Senator Kerry. Over the years, he's voted over 350 times for higher taxes on the American people, including the biggest tax increase in American history. He supported higher gas taxes 11 times and once favored a tax increase of 50 cents a gallon. That would cost you another \$5 or more every time you fill up your tank. For that kind of money, he ought to throw in a free car wash. *[Laughter]*

I want your neighbors to listen closely to the rhetoric of the campaign. Thus far, my opponent has proposed over a trillion dollars of new spending, and the campaign is just getting started. *[Laughter]* He says he's going to pay for this by taxing the rich.

You can't pay for a trillion dollars of new spending by taxing the rich. What that really means is, he's going to have to eliminate every one of the single tax reductions we passed, and he's still going to have to raise taxes on top of that. In order to fund his new spending programs, he's going to have to tax people who go to work. He's going to have to raise the marriage penalty. He's going to have to lower the child credit. It turns out if you have a job, if you have a child, if you have a dollar to spare, Senator Kerry thinks you're rich enough to pay more taxes. The good news is, we're not going to let him do it.

Higher taxes right now would undermine growth and destroy jobs just as this economy is getting stronger. To help grow the American economy and to create more jobs, I have a better idea: We ought to make all the tax cuts permanent.

Our future also depends on America's leadership in the world. The momentum of freedom in our time is strong, but we still

face serious dangers. Al Qaida is wounded but not broken. Terrorists are testing our will in Afghanistan and Iraq. Regimes in North Korea and Iran are challenging the peace. If America shows weakness and uncertainty in this decade, the world will drift toward tragedy. This will not happen on my watch.

This Nation is strong and confident in the cause of freedom. Today, no friend or enemy doubts the word of the United States of America. America and our allies gave an ultimatum to the terror regime in Afghanistan. The Taliban chose defiance. And thankfully for the women and children of Afghanistan, the Taliban are no longer in power. America and our allies gave an ultimatum to the terror regime in Iraq. The dictator chose defiance, and now the dictator sits in a prison cell.

September the 11th, 2001, taught a lesson we must never forget. It's a lesson I will never forget: America must confront threats before they fully materialize.

In Iraq, my administration looked at the intelligence, and we saw a threat. Arlen and his colleagues in Congress looked at the intelligence, and they saw a threat. The United Nations Security Council looked at the intelligence, and it saw a threat. The previous administration and Congress looked at the same intelligence and made regime change in Iraq the policy of our country.

In 2002, the U.N. Security Council yet again demanded a full accounting of Saddam Hussein's weapons programs. They were worried. They were worried not only because of the intelligence; they remembered that he had used chemical weapons against his own people. As he had for over a decade, Saddam Hussein refused to comply with the demands of the world. So I had a choice to make: Either take the word of a madman, or take action to defend America. Faced with that choice, I will defend America every time.

My opponent admits that Saddam Hussein was a threat. He just didn't support my decision to remove Saddam from power. Perhaps he was hoping Saddam would lose the next Iraqi election. *[Laughter]* We showed the dictator and a watching world that America means what it says. Because of our actions, because of the actions by our coalition, Saddam Hussein's torture chambers are closed. Because we acted, Iraq's weapons programs

are ended forever. Because we acted, nations like Libya have gotten the message and renounced their own weapons programs. Because we acted, an example of democracy is rising at the very heart of the Middle East. Because we acted, the world is more free. Because we acted, America is more secure.

We've had some tough weeks recently in Iraq. There are thugs and terrorists who would rather go on killing the innocent than accept the advance of liberty. There's a reason why. They know that a free Iraq, with freedom in the heart of the Middle East, will be a major defeat for the cause of terror. That's why they're reacting the way they react. They're trying to shake our will. These killers are trying to shake the will of the civilized world and America. They don't understand America. We will never be intimidated by thugs and assassins. We will strike the terrorists in Iraq. We will defeat them there so we do not have to face them in our own country.

Other nations are helping to build a free society in Iraq, because they understand what we know: It will make us all safer. And we're standing with the brave Iraqi people as they assume more of their own defense and move towards self-government. These are not easy tasks. It's not easy to go from democracy—to democracy from brutal tyranny. They're hard tasks, but they are essential tasks. America will finish what we have begun, and we will win this essential victory in the war against terror.

On national security, Americans have the clearest possible choice. My opponent says he approves of bold action in the world but only if other countries do not object. I'm all for united action, and so are more than 30 coalition partners in Iraq right now. But I will never submit America's national security needs to the rulers of other nations.

Some are skeptical that the war on terror is really a war at all. My opponent said, and I quote, "The war on terror is far less of a military operation and far more of an intelligence gathering, law enforcement operation." I strongly disagree.

Our Nation followed this approach after the World Trade Center was bombed in 1993. The matter was handled in the courts and thought by some to be settled. But the

terrorists were still training in Afghanistan. They were still plotting in other nations and drawing up more ambitious plans. After the chaos and carnage of September the 11th, it is never enough to serve our enemies with legal papers. With those attacks, the terrorists and their supporters declared war on the United States of America, and war is what they got.

Our men and women in the United States military are taking great risks, and they're doing great work. At bases across our country and in the world, I've had the privilege of meeting with them, with those who defend us, with those who sacrifice for our security. I've seen their great decency and their unselfish courage. And I assure you, ladies and gentlemen, the cause of freedom and the cause of our security is in really good hands.

This Nation is prosperous and strong, yet we need to remember that our greatest strength is in the hearts and souls of our citizens. We're strong because of the values we try to live by, courage and compassion, reverence and integrity. We're strong because of the institutions that help give us direction and purpose, our families, our schools, and our religious congregations. The values and institutions are fundamental to our lives, and they deserve the respect of our Government.

We stand for fair treatment of faith-based groups—all faith-based groups—so they can receive Federal support for their works of compassion and healing. We will not stand for Government discrimination against people of faith.

We stand for welfare reforms that require work and strengthen marriage. We have helped millions of Americans find independence and dignity. We will not stand for any attempt to weaken those reforms and to send people back into lives of dependence.

We stand for a culture of life in which every person counts and every person matters. We will not stand for the treatment of any life as a commodity to be experimented upon or exploited or cloned.

We stand for the confirmation of judges who strictly and faithfully interpret the law. We will not stand for judges who undermine democracy by legislating from the bench or judges who try to remake the values of America by court order.

We stand for a culture of responsibility in America. The culture of this country is changing from one that has said, "If it feels good, do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which each of us understands we are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

If you are fortunate enough to be a mother or a father, you are responsible for loving your child with all your heart. If you are worried about the quality of the education in your community, you're responsible for doing something about it. If you are a CEO in corporate America, you are responsible for telling the truth to your shareholders and your employees. And in a responsibility society, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbors, just like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

For all Americans, these years in our history will stand apart. There are quiet times in the life of a nation when little is expected of its leaders. This isn't one of those times. You and I are living in a period when the stakes are high and the challenges are difficult. We're living in a period when resolve is needed.

None of us will ever forget that week when one era ended and another began. September the 14th, 2001, I stood in the ruins of the Twin Towers. I'll never forget the day. There were workers in hardhats shouting at me as loud as they could, "Whatever it takes." One guy looked at me and said, "Don't let me down." As we all did that day, these men and women searching through the rubble took it personally. I took it personally. I have a responsibility that goes on. I will never relent in bringing justice to our enemies. I will defend the security of America, whatever it takes.

In these times, I've also been a witness to the character of this Nation. Not so long ago, some had their doubts about the American character and our capacity to meet a serious challenge or to serve a cause greater than self-interest. But Americans have given their answer. I've seen the unselfish courage of our troops. I've seen the heroism of Americans in the face of danger. I've seen the spirit of service and compassion renewed in our country. We've all seen our Nation unite in common purpose when it mattered most.

We're going to need all these qualities for the work ahead. We have a war to win, and the world is counting on us to lead the cause of freedom and peace. We have a duty to spread opportunity to every part of America. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it, and we know that for our great country, the best days lie ahead.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:21 p.m. at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Jerome Bettis, running back for the Pittsburgh Steelers of the National Football League.

Remarks in a Discussion on the PATRIOT Act in Buffalo, New York

April 20, 2004

The President. Thanks for coming. I think you're going to find this to be a really interesting discussion about how Federal, State, and local authorities are working hard to prevent a terrorist attack. That's what we're here to talk about—and why it's important for those of us in positions of authority to give Federal, State, and local authorities all the tools necessary to do the job we expect of them. That's what we're here to talk about, but I've got some things I want to say before we start talking about it.

First, I am glad to be at the home of the mighty Buffalo Bills. I traveled today with Congressman Quinn and Congressman Reynolds, two fine Members of the United States Congress from this area, who assured me this is the year. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Jack and Tom for coming today. Thank you for your strong leadership. Thanks for caring a lot about the people of the Buffalo, New York, area. Thanks for your steadfast concern about the security of our country. I appreciate your service.

I also appreciate the service of the really fine Governor of the State of New York, George Pataki. Thanks for coming.

I know we've got State and local authorities who are here. I appreciate your service. For the local authorities, my only advice is make sure you fill the potholes—[*laughter*]—empty the garbage—[*laughter*]—answer the phone calls. But thanks for coming today.

This message today is aimed as much at you as it is anybody else.

Today we have got an interesting—a lot of families with us, but one that struck me as worthy of note, and that's the Conroy family. Where's Peggy Conroy? Somewhere. There she is. Good. Hi, Peggy. Thanks. The reason I brought up Peggy is, I want you to know that Peggy's husband is a staff sergeant in the National Guard, the 105th Military Police Unit in Karbala, Iraq. She represents many of the families of this area and the country who are sacrificing to see to it that the world is more free and more peaceful.

I appreciate so very much your steadfast love for your husband. You honor us with your presence today, and I'm really glad you brought Billy and Jeff and Tyler. Billy and Jeff really represent the greatest spirit of our country. Not only do they love their dad and pray for their dad, but they're collecting school supplies for the Iraqi children. In other words, they're going to their own schoolmates and saying, "How best can we not only help secure Iraq so it can become a free country, how best can we show the compassion of America?" And I want to thank you guys for honoring your dad and honoring our country.

I also met a fellow named Frank Brusino. Where are you, Frank? There he is. Frank is an interesting character. [*Laughter*] He is a retired brigadier general in the Army Reserves, a paratrooper, who is now very much involved with the Senior Corps, the Citizen Corps Council. In other words, their job is to help provide law enforcement with additional volunteers so law enforcement can better do its job. For the first-responders who are here, I think you know the valuable addition that Citizen Corps Councils have made, so you can do your work better.

The reason I bring up Frank is, you know, a lot of times they talk about the strength of America as being in our military. That's part of our strength, and we're going to keep the military strong, by the way, so the world will be more peaceful. They talk about the strength of our country being the fact that we're a prosperous nation, and we need to make sure we continue to expand prosperity so people can find work. But the true strength of the country lies in the hearts and

souls of our citizens. See, Frank represents the strength of America because he volunteers to make the community in which he lives a better place. He sets such a great example for other citizens in this area. That's why I wanted to herald Frank's accomplishments. He is a soldier in the army of compassion. He takes time out of his life to see what he can do to make the Buffalo area more secure.

My call to people in this area is, see what you can do to make Buffalo a more compassionate, decent place. See, societies change one conscience, one soul a time. All it takes is for citizens to hear that universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself and mentor a child or feed the hungry or provide shelter for the homeless or love the lonely. And by doing so, you serve our Nation, and you really show the world the true compassion of a great nation.

Thank you for your service, sir. I'm proud that you're here. Thanks for coming.

September the 11th was a horrible day for our Nation, and we must never forget the lessons of September the 11th. I appreciate so very much the Governor's steadfast determination and compassion during those difficult times for the citizens of New York City and New York State and New Jersey and Connecticut. It's a time that really changed our perspective about the world. See, we never really thought America would be a battlefield. We thought oceans would protect us. That was kind of the conventional wisdom of the time, and therefore, our defenses were aligned that way, our offenses were aligned that way.

As Larry mentioned, there were threats, but most of those threats were overseas, and they attacked us overseas. But never did we dream that they would use our own airplanes as weapons to fly and mercilessly kill thousands of our citizens. From that day forward, we have changed our attitude, and we've got to make sure the laws reflect the realities of the generation—of the new generation, of the generation of those of us involved with being responsible for the security of the country.

See, we're now facing the first war of the 21st century. It's a different kind of war. Frank was a paratrooper. In those days you

could measure the enemy by the number of battalions and number of tanks and number of airplanes. Now the enemy hides in caves. They lurk^{*} in the shadows of the world. They will strike and kill innocent citizens without any conscience, because they have no conscience.

So the fundamental charge before us all in positions of responsibility is, how do we deal with the threat? First thing we do is we stay on the offense. First thing we do is we find killers before they kill us. We rally the world, which we have done and will continue to do, to cut off money, to share intelligence, to put brave troops and security personnel after these people, to find them, to rout them out. The message should be clear to them, there is no cave or hole deep enough to hide from the justice of the United States of America and our coalition partners. It's essential.

September the 11th—when the President says something, he better mean it. See, in order to make the world more peaceful, it's essential that those of us in positions of high responsibility speak clearly and mean what we say. And so when I said, "If you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as a terrorist," I meant it. And we acted upon that, in order to make the world more peaceful and more secure.

The Taliban found out what we meant. Remember, those were the leaders in Afghanistan that provided safe haven and training camps for Al Qaida. And fortunately, thanks to our coalition, thanks to brave soldiers from America and others, the Taliban no longer is in power. We enforced the doctrine. The world is more peaceful because the Taliban is gone. And at the same time, please remember, the women and children in Afghanistan have a much brighter future because we removed a barbaric regime that refused to even educate young girls.

When the President speaks, he better mean it. When I went in front of the United Nations Security Council in the fall of 2002, I said, "Listen, we all have seen a threat. One of the lessons of September the 11th was when you see a threat overseas, you must act before it materializes. September the

^{*} White House correction.

11th said we can't wait and hope on the good intentions of terrorists who will kill innocent men and women. We've got to act. We can't hope for the best anymore." The United States must use our prestige and influence and diplomatic power and military power to protect us and others who love freedom.

I went in front of the United Nations Security Council, having looked at intelligence that said Saddam Hussein was a threat. The Congress looked at the same intelligence, by the way, and concluded Saddam was a threat. The United Nations Security Council looked at the intelligence and said Saddam was a threat. No wonder we thought he was a threat. After all, he had used weapons of mass destruction on his own people. Not only did the intelligence lead us to believe that, but his actions led us to believe it. He paid for suiciders. He harbored terrorists. He was paying for terrorists to kill. And so we saw a threat.

September the 11th changed the equation. So I was given a choice: Either trust the word of a madman, hope for the best with somebody who was a tyrant, or take action to defend our country. Given that choice, I will defend America every time.

It's hard work to go from a system where there was torture and rape rooms and mass graves to freedom. That's hard work, but it is necessary work. That's why I want to herald the work and sacrifice of your husband. It's important work for our future. Free societies are peaceful societies. The way to defeat terror in the long run is to provide hope, to provide hope for families, to provide hope for children, to say there is a bright future for you. That won't happen so long as there's tyranny in a part of the world that tends to breed hatred. It will happen when societies become democratic and free.

And so what we're doing right now is we're defeating the enemy there so we won't have to fight them here. But as well, we're working for freedom in the heart of a part of the world that needs freedom. You know, I can't tell you how strongly I believe that—about the power of freedom. After all, it's been a part of our national soul. We have proven how powerful freedom can be. We bring people from diverse backgrounds together under the mantle of a free society. We're such a beacon.

I believe freedom is not America's gift to the world. I believe freedom is the almighty God's gift to each man and woman in this world. And therefore, as we work to not only make the homeland more secure, we work to spread freedom, which will make the world more peaceful. The enemy can't stand the thought of free societies. That's why they attacked us, see, and we're not going to change. That's what they don't understand. There's nothing they can do to intimidate us, to make us change our deepest belief.

They're trying to kill to shake our will. We're too tough, too strong, too resolute, and too determined to ever have our will shaken by thugs and terrorists.

We live in historic times. We face a different kind of war, and one of the key victories in this battle against terror is going to be the spread of freedom throughout the greater Middle East. And we'll succeed. We'll succeed because deep in the heart of every human being is the deep desire to be free.

At home, we've got a lot of work to do. We've got a lot of work to do. We're a free nation. We're a big nation. People come and go. And we needed to change the whole attitude about how we protect the homeland. We'll do everything we can to stay on the offensive. But just remember, we've got to be right 100 percent of the time, and the enemy has only got to be right once. And so we've got a tough job.

It means we've got to coordinate between the Federal Government and the State Government and the local government like never before. We've got to share information on a real-time basis so first-responders and police chiefs can move as quickly as possible. We're going to talk about that communication today.

We created the Department of Homeland Security which would allow us to better coordinate between agencies. It's kind of—what happens in bureaucracies is you get what they call stovepipes—in other words, people don't talk to each other, they kind of stay in their own lane, and they don't share information across the lanes. And therefore, vital information may show up, but it's not widely disseminated, so there's not real-time action on, say, a threat.

Part of the problem we faced was that there was laws and bureaucratic mindsets that prevented the sharing of information. And so, besides setting up the Homeland Security Department and beefing up our air travel security and making sure that we now fingerprint at the borders and take those fingerprints, by the way, and compare them to a master log of fingerprints of terrorists and known criminals, to make sure people coming into our country are the right people coming into our country. I mean, we're doing a lot of things. But we changed law as well to allow the FBI and—to be able to share information within the FBI.

Incredibly enough, because of—which Larry and others will describe—see, I'm not a lawyer, so it's kind of hard for me to kind of get bogged down in the law. I'm not going to play like one, either. *[Laughter]* The way I viewed it, if I can just put it in simple terms, is that one part of the FBI couldn't tell the other part of the FBI vital information because of law. And the CIA and the FBI couldn't talk. Now, these are people charged with gathering information about threats to the country, yet they couldn't share the information.

And right after September the 11th, the Congress wisely acted, said, "This doesn't make any sense. If we can't get people talking, how can we act? We're charged with the security of the country, first-responders are charged with the security of the country, and if we can't share information between vital agencies, we're not going to be able to do our job." And they acted.

So the first thing I want you to think about is, when you hear PATRIOT Act, is that we changed the law and bureaucratic mindset to allow for the sharing of information. It's vital, and others will describe what that means.

Secondly, there are such things as roving wiretaps. Now, by the way, any time you hear the United States Government talking about wiretap, it requires—a wiretap requires a court order. Nothing has changed, by the way. When we're talking about chasing down terrorists, we're talking about getting a court order before we do so. It's important for our fellow citizens to understand, when you think PATRIOT Act, constitutional guarantees are

in place when it comes to doing what is necessary to protect our homeland, because we value the Constitution.

But a roving wiretap means—it was primarily used for drug lords. A guy, a pretty intelligent drug lord would have a phone, and in old days they could just get a tap on that phone. So guess what he'd do? He'd get him another phone, particularly with the advent of the cell phones. And so he'd start changing cell phones, which made it hard for our DEA types to listen, to run down these guys polluting our streets, and that changed. The law changed on—roving wiretaps were available for chasing down drug lords. They weren't available for chasing down terrorists, see? That didn't make any sense in the post-9/11 era. If we couldn't use a tool that we're using against mobsters on terrorists, something needed to happen.

The PATRIOT Act changed that. So with court order, law enforcement officials can now use what's called roving wiretaps, which will prevent a terrorist from switching cell phones in order to get a message out to one of his buddies.

Thirdly, to give you an example of what we're talking about, there's something called delayed notification warrants. Those are very important. I see some people, first-responders, nodding their heads about what they mean. These are a common tool used to catch mobsters. In other words, it allows people to collect data before everybody is aware of what's going on. It requires court order. It requires protection under the law. We couldn't use these against terrorists, but we could use against gangs.

We had real problems chasing paper—following paper trails of people. The law was just such that we could run down a problem for a crooked businessman. We couldn't use the same tools necessary to chase down a terrorist. That doesn't make any sense, and sometimes the use of paper trails and paper will lead local first-responders and local officials to a potential terrorist. We've got to have every tool, is what I'm telling you, available for our people who I expect to do their jobs and you expect to do their jobs.

We had tough penalties for drug traffickers. We didn't have as tough a penalty for terrorists. That didn't make any sense.

The true threat to the 21st century is the fact somebody is trying to come back into our country and hurt us. And we ought to be able to at least send a signal through law that says we're going to treat you equally as tough as we do mobsters and drug lords.

There's other things we need to do. We need administrative subpoenas in the law. This was not a part of the recent PATRIOT Act. By the way, the reason I bring up the PATRIOT Act, it's set to expire next year. I'm starting a campaign to make it clear to Members of Congress, it shouldn't expire. It shouldn't expire, for the security of our country.

Administrative subpoenas means it is—speeds up the process whereby people can gain information to go after terrorists. Administrative subpoenas I guess is kind of an ominous-sounding word, but it is, to put everybody's mind at ease about administrative subpoenas—we use them to catch crooked doctors today. It's a tool for people to chase down medical fraud. And it certainly seems to make sense to me that if we're using it as a tool to chase medical fraud cases, we certainly ought to use it as a tool to chase potential terrorists.

I'll tell you another interesting part of the law that needs to be changed. Judges need greater authority to deny bail to terrorists. Judges have that authority in many cases like—again, I keep citing drug offenses, but the Congress got tough on drug offenders a while ago and gave judges leeway to deny bail. They don't have that same authority to deny bail to terrorists now. I've got to tell you, it doesn't make any sense to me that it is very conceivable that we haul in somebody who is dangerous to America, and then they are able to spring bail, and out they go.

It's hard to assure the American people that we've given tools to law enforcement that they need if somebody has gone through all the work to chase down a potential terrorist, and they haul them in front of a court, and they pay bail, and it's *adios*. It just doesn't make any sense.

The PATRIOT Act needs to be renewed, and the PATRIOT Act needs to be enhanced. That's what we're talking about, and it's better for others to explain to you how this PATRIOT Act works. After all, they're

charged with protecting our citizens. They're on the frontline. You see, I try to pick the best I can at the Federal Government and say, "Here's our mission. Our mission is to protect our country." I say that to the Defense Department, "Our mission is to protect the country." I say it to the Justice Department and to the FBI. After 9/11, I said to the Justice Department and the FBI, "Your job, your primary focus now is to prevent attack. Listen, I still want you chasing down the criminals. That's what's expected of you. But there's a new mindset, and that is, because of what happened on 9/11, we've got to change the way we think, and therefore, your job now is to prevent attack."

And one of the first persons I told that to was Thompson. See, when they say "Deputy Attorney General," it means he's the number two guy at the Justice Department. He's the chief—he was the chief operating officer of the Justice Department. He was there when he heard the command given that we're at war. "I want everybody at home doing everything we can to protect us, and you're job now is to prevent. Do what you can do."

And so—Larry, we miss you over there, and don't get too comfortable. He's living in Atlanta. He's living in Atlanta, Georgia. Actually, when he left he said, "You know, I've got some kids to raise." I love that spirit, by the way. I love the fact that a dad puts his family first. And that's a vital part of life, isn't it? And so, he did a heck of a good job. He's also doing a very good job as his most important responsibility, which is being a loving dad.

But I appreciate you coming up. Why don't you just say what you want to say—now that you're no longer in Government. [Laughter]

[Larry Thompson, former Deputy Attorney General of the United States, made brief remarks and introduced Michael Battle, U.S. Attorney, Western District of New York, who also made brief remarks.]

The President. Let me stop you right there. I hope the average citizen sees the dilemma. You've got people working on the criminal case, moving along, and they say, "We've got a problem with these guys." And

all of a sudden, the other side of the building says, "They may be involved with a plot related to terrorism," and yet, they can't talk?

Go ahead. *[Laughter]* They could talk about Buffalo Bills football, but they couldn't talk about securing the homeland.

Michael Battle. I couldn't have said it better myself. *[Laughter]*

The President. Now, let me ask you something, Mike. First of all, congratulations.

Mr. Battle. Thank you.

The President. We put you in there because we want you to get them and lock them up if they're harmful to America. *[Laughter]* But let me ask you something; talk about the—you did a good job. We're about to go to Pete Ahearn of the FBI, but I want to ask you a question on the bail proceedings. Do you have any thoughts—it's kind of a leading question, of course—*[laughter]*—I'm not even a lawyer. Anyway—*[laughter]*—tell me about the bail proceedings with those that you arrested.

[Mr. Battle made further remarks.]

The President. I appreciate you, Mike. Good job.

Mr. Battle. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Pete Ahearn is with us, with the FBI. Pete, why don't you share with us what it was like not to talk to somebody? No. *[Laughter]*

Let me say something about the FBI. Pete's boss is Bob Mueller. He's now the Director of the FBI. Mueller is doing a fabulous job. He is a—he comes to my office nearly every morning. He sits down and brings me up to date on what the FBI is doing. What's really interesting is to follow some of the cases—we followed this case—to see how hard our agents are working, how close the coordination is. And I really want to thank you for being on the frontline of doing really incredibly important work to protect the American people.

Peter Ahearn. It's an honor, Mr. President. Thank you. First off, Mr. President, people have to realize—and it's not just with the FBI or our Joint Terrorism Task Force but so many in this room have sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution of this country. The PATRIOT Act is a law. The PATRIOT Act has the judicial oversight. The

rules are there. We follow the rules. The last time I checked, the terrorists don't have the rules that we have and don't have to play by them.

So when you're dealing with a situation like this and you have all the pieces of the puzzle and parts of the puzzle in one room, parts in another—we were, at the time, probably one of the first FBI offices applying the new PATRIOT Act during the outset of this investigation.

The other issue, the information that we received—and it wasn't just issues with the six individuals in Lackawanna; it was the information we were able to glean that we were able to pass to our counterparts, for example in the CIA. It's just not—it did not just deal with here. It was incumbent on us to take that information and everything we had, not just maybe some phone numbers that we got from the criminal side of the case or phone numbers that we got from the intelligence side of the case.

Even after the Lackawanna case, the PATRIOT Act provisions helped us. We were able to share the intelligence from the prof-fers intelligence from the grand jury, the information that we had there and pass it to the intel community that led to many other things that were part of this investigation that were overseas. So it was not just the cell right here—

The President. Right. Some of the people in the cell here actually were traveling overseas, as I recall. As a matter of fact, we got a couple of them overseas, isn't that right?

Agent Ahearn. Yes, sir. Yes, we did.

The President. Maybe I'm not supposed to say that. *[Laughter]*

Mr. Battle. As far as I'm concerned, Mr. President—

The President. Thank you, Attorney. *[Laughter]* He said I didn't break any rules. *[Laughter]*

The point is, is that—what he's telling you is, is that we needed to share this information throughout our Government, which we couldn't do before. And it just doesn't make any sense. We got people working hard overseas that are collecting information to better help us protect ourselves. And what 9/11 was, is that—said is that a threat overseas now must be taken seriously here at home. It's

one thing to protect our Embassies, and we work hard to do so. But now a threat overseas could end up being a threat to the homeland. And in order to protect the homeland, these good people have got to be able to share information.

Those who criticize the PATRIOT Act must listen to those folks on the frontline of defending America. The PATRIOT Act defends our liberty, is what it does, under the Constitution of the United States.

Agent Ahearn. Prior to the PATRIOT Act, it is true, and no pun intended, but we were fighting with one arm tied behind our back. It was clear. *[Laughter]*

The President. Yes, it looks like you still are. *[Laughter]*

[Agent Ahearn made further remarks.]

The President. Joint Terrorism Task Force—you might tell the folks what that means.

Agent Ahearn. Well, clearly, the JTTF is an acronym, obviously, for the Joint Terrorism Task Force. Prior to 9/11 there were about 28 of them in the United States. We, here in Buffalo, had already established and put the paperwork in for one prior to 9/11. It was the first one approved. And it brings to the table more resources that I can, as the FBI Director here—to put into the battle in the war on terrorism.

The President. And who sits around the table—Joint Terrorism Task Force? FBI agents, U.S. attorneys, local?

Agent Ahearn. I'm sure you're going to hear more about that with the gentlemen here, but they all sit around and—

The President. Okay, good. That's what I'm leading into. See, it's kind of a—

Agent Ahearn. No, it was a good segue. *[Laughter]* There are no secrets. I mean, everybody that is cleared and is part of the investigation, they see it all.

The President. Right. This is a good segue, as we say, to Federal, State, and local cooperation. It is—in order for us to do our jobs, we've got to make sure that the Federal Government shares information with the State Government, and vice versa, and that the State and Federal Government share information with the local government, vice versa. So that everybody is knitted up, as we

say. And that wasn't the case before September the 11th in a lot of communities.

One of the knitter-uppers is Jim McMahon, who was appointed by the Governor. I appreciate your service. Let her go.

[James McMahon, Director, Office of Public Security, State of New York, made brief remarks.]

The President. I appreciate that. What dawned on me when Jim was talking is that we do the same thing, by the way, for Federal emergency response. We've done a better job of coordinating FEMA, for example, which is—means Federal Emergency Management Association. But it's now part of the Homeland Security Department. And we better coordinate with State and local authorities. So not only are we doing—coordinating activities when it comes to fighting terrorists, but we're doing so when it comes to responding to emergencies as well.

I appreciate the first-responders who are here. I know New York has got fantastic first-responders. Obviously, those who rushed into burning towers set the highest of high standards for courage and bravery and really serve as great inspiration for others who wear the uniform as well as those of us who appreciate those who wear the uniform.

Speaking about wearing a uniform, one man wore one today, and that would be Chief Moslow. Thank you for coming, sir. We're honored you're here.

[John Moslow, chief of police, Amherst, New York, made brief remarks.]

The President. Yes, that's good. See, Thompson whispered, he said, "We've only got 13,000 FBI agents." That is—when you think about it—across the country, that's not a lot of FBI agents, is it? So, therefore, there needs to be cooperation.

I appreciate you, Chief. You represent those on the frontline, what we call the first-responders. The Federal Government is spending some money to help. The key is to make sure we get it to you so it doesn't get stuck in different bureaucracies, which is one of the challenges those of us in Government face, which is not getting stuck in bureaucracies. But I want to thank you, and I want to thank the men and women from

this area who are on the frontlines, for doing everything in your power to uphold the oath to which you swore when you became a uniformed officer.

Here's what I think. I think that the world is going to be more peaceful and free. I think America is now more secure, and we're working to make it even more secure. There is no doubt in my mind that this country can * achieve any objective we put our mind to. It's essential we remain steadfast and strong and courageous and determined. History has called us to this moment of time, and history has called the right nation to lead. And the reason I can say that with certainty is because I understand the character and the courage of the American people.

It's an honor to have been here today. I hope, as a result of this discussion, our fellow citizens have a better understanding of the importance of the PATRIOT Act and why it needs to be renewed and expanded—the importance of the PATRIOT Act when it comes to defending America, our liberties, and at the same time, that it still protects our liberties under the Constitution.

But more importantly, I hope our fellow citizens recognize that there are hundreds of their fellow citizens working on a daily basis to do their duty to make this country as secure as possible. And for your work, I say thank you, and may God continue to bless you.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:49 a.m. at the Kleinshans Music Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. George E. Pataki of New York; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Peter Ahearn, special agent in charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Buffalo, NY.

Remarks at a Victory 2004 Luncheon in New York City

April 20, 2004

Thank you all. Thank you. Please be seated. The faster I speak, the quicker you eat. [Laughter] Thanks for coming. Thanks for the support of voter turnout efforts. I look forward to carrying the banner. I look for-

ward to explaining what I intend to do for the next 4 years, and your help will make it easier for us to get people to the polls. That's really what we're doing here today, and I want to thank you for that.

I appreciate my friend Pataki, who is doing a great job as the Governor of this great State. If you think the President is being hard, try being the Governor of New York—[laughter]—or the mayor of New York. Mayor, thank you for coming. I appreciate both the fine jobs you're doing. You both are great men. Thanks for your friendship. I'm proud to know you, as we say in Crawford, Texas.

Laura is not here, obviously, and so you drew the short straw. She is a fabulous woman who is a great First Lady. And I got to tell you, it's a lot easier to be President with somebody who is—sees the ability to influence people's lives in a positive way, just like Laura does. She is making a huge difference, whether it be literacy or women's health issues. The most important thing she means to me is steadfast love. And I'm proud of her, and I wish she were here today.

I know Peter King is here. I appreciate you coming, Congressman. I'm glad—appreciate your distinguished service in the mighty New York congressional delegation. Is Vito here as well? Hey, Vito. Good to see you. Thank you for coming. Vito Fossella as well is here—two Members of the Congress. They're here for two reasons: one, they like a good meal—[laughter]—two, they want a nice ride back to Washington. [Laughter] Maybe pick up a little wisdom, too, right, Peter?

I appreciate my friend Mercer Reynolds, who is the national finance chairman. Mercer is a business guy out of Cincinnati, Ohio, and he said, "Can I help you?" I said, "You bet. Get to work." And he has. And I really want to thank Mercer for his leadership.

Al Hoffman is the RNC finance chairman from the great State of Florida. Thank you for being here, Al, and thank you for your help. See you Friday. I will be in Naples and Miami Friday. I want to thank Lew Eisenberg. I appreciate your leadership, Lew. Thanks for helping make sure this dinner went well today. Thank you very much.

* White House correction.

I'm looking forward to the campaign. It's—probably somebody looking at me like, "Do you really mean that?" [*Laughter*] I am. I like to campaign. I'm a competitive kind of person. I've got a lot of Mother in me. [*Laughter*] But most importantly, I've got a reason to serve 4 more years. And that's what I want to share with you today.

First, I think it's—in order to say what you're going to do, particularly as an incumbent, you've got to remind people what you have done. Because by reminding people what you have done, it will help people believe that what you're going to do is something that's true.

We've taken on—first of all, I assembled a great team. I know my Chief of Staff, Andy Card, is with us somewhere—where are you? Chief Card. I think the measure of a good leader is with whom he surrounds himself, and I've got smart, capable people with me, people who care deeply about the country, people who have got access, people who can walk in and say, "You know, you're not looking so good, Mr. President," or, "Mr. President, you're doing the right thing." Whether it be Andy or Condoleezza Rice or a great national security team or a wonderful Cabinet—I know Elaine Chao's dad is here. I appreciate you're coming, Dr. Chao. Elaine is the Secretary of Labor on our team. And I think the American people should take comfort in the fact that I have put together a good team. And it's essential you do so because you never know what's going to come on your watch. You've got to have people around, if times get tough, that are capable of making good—giving you good advice when the pressure is on.

And we had some things on our watch that I don't think a lot of people would have anticipated, starting with the attacks here on September the 11th. It was a dramatic moment for our country. It's one that I will never forget of course, and it's one that really, after I got beyond the tears, lifted my spirits because I saw the incredible courage and steadfast resolve of the people of this part of the world.

There is just something so uplifting to see the courage of the firefighters and the police and their loved ones and the citizens of New York City and Connecticut and New Jersey,

as they rallied to what was a horrible moment in our history. It was such an inspiring moment for those of us who saw firsthand the response.

I made a decision then and there that I would do everything we could to learn the lessons of September the 11th and respond in a forceful way. The lesson of September the 11th, for me, was twofold: one, that any time we see a threat materialize we've got to deal with it—we can't hope it goes away—that it must be viewed in a serious nature; and secondly, it was that we'll keep the terrorists on the run until we bring them all to justice, that the best way to protect the homeland was to find them before they hurt us again. And that's what we have done.

And part of the reason I want to be the President is because I want to continue that. We're at war. The terrorists declared war on the United States, and I want to continue waging that war so that children can grow up in a peaceful country.

At the same time, the economy wasn't so hot for a while here. As you might remember, there was a recession in early 2001. And we dealt with it straight up. I told the American people that in order to deal with the economy, people need to have more money in their pockets, and went to Congress, not once but several times, and convinced Congress—and I want to thank the Congressmen who are here that supported us—that tax relief would make a difference in terms of economic vitality and growth. And it did. The recession was one of the most shallow recessions in our economic history. I look forward to reminding people that the reason why was because tax relief worked.

The economy also took a blow because we had some citizens who forgot to tell the truth. They held positions of high responsibility, and they betrayed their trust. And we responded swiftly to that as well. We passed tough laws that made it abundantly clear we expect there to be honesty in the boardrooms of America.

These were issues that the administration had to deal with, and I look forward to making the case that we have dealt with them in a way that made America a better place. But that's not how—that's just not what the American people want to hear. They don't

want to see what you've done; they see what you're going to do. That's what we've got to talk about. I will campaign hard to make it clear that we've got a plan to make sure that the prosperity that we have today is lasting prosperity.

I say we have prosperity today—at least the statistics say we have prosperity today. The growth last year was strong. The projected growth this year is strong—that's growth of our economy. Inflation is low. Interest rates are low. The homeownership rate is the highest ever. It's an incredibly positive statistic, isn't it, to be able to stand and say, people own more homes than ever before. That is what we want in America. We want people owning something. They ought to be able to—"This is my home. Welcome to my piece of property." More people are able to do so. More minorities own homes than ever before. We've still got a minority homeownership gap, but nevertheless, it's a positive sign that people are owning their own homes.

Jobs are being created; 308,000 new jobs in the month of March was positive; 750,000 jobs since August. In other words, the economy is picking up, and yet, the fundamental question is, how do we make sure that the prosperity lasts, not just lasts through a political cycle, but how do we make sure America stays on the leading edge of economic prosperity for a decade to come or two decades to come? How do we make sure the entrepreneurial spirit is strong and alive and well? First, it starts with having the right philosophy. The role of Government isn't to create wealth but to create an environment where the entrepreneur can flourish and succeed. That's the role of Government.

We've got some unusual challenges to make sure America is a prosperous nation for a long time to come. One, we've got to make sure that we've got spending discipline in Washington, and it's a battle because appropriators tend to appropriate. And we just got to make sure they appropriate in the amounts of money that we can afford these days. And I put a pretty tough budget out there that said we're going to fund our troops. It said we're going to make sure we fund our homeland security challenges, but nondefense discretionary spending needs to

be at less than one percent, in order to make sure that we don't overcommit our budget.

It's going to be an issue in the campaign, by the way, because the tendency is to promise a lot of things when you run for President. Already the other side has promised over a trillion dollars of new spending, and they haven't figured out how to pay for it yet. You can't provide a trillion dollars in new spending by just taxing the rich. There's not enough money when it comes to just taxing the rich. That means you're going to have to tax everybody, which leads to the second issue, as to how to make sure that we're a competitive nation for a long time coming, and that's to make sure the Tax Code is simple, easy to understand, and the tax relief we passed is permanent.

I say "the tax relief we passed is permanent"—certainly, in the Tax Code, it's necessary for people who want to invest capital. People who invest capital, whether they be large or small businesses, must understand the rules of the game. It's a huge mistake for Congress to let the tax relief expire, and so I look forward to continuing to making the case that tax relief must be permanent. It's essential for families that the tax relief be permanent. Remember, a key component of the tax relief was raising the child credit to \$1,000. If they let that lapse, it's a tax increase on working families. We lowered the lowest tax bracket to 10 percent and expanded who could participate. If they let that aspect lapse, it's a tax on working families.

We tax marriage in America. We got what they call the marriage penalty. In my judgment, it's a little backwards. We ought not to be taxing marriage. We ought to be encouraging marriage. We reduced the penalty on marriage, and yet, if Congress doesn't act, it goes back up, sends the wrong signal. It's a bad tax.

We put the death tax on its way to extinction—that's an important tax—in order to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit to be strong. After all, we want to encourage people to pass their assets on to whoever they want and have the Government only tax it once. And if Congress doesn't act, the death tax will come back to life—2010, by the way, is going to be an unusual year. *[Laughter]*

We cut all taxes, by the way, in the tax relief package. My attitude is, if you pay taxes, you ought to get tax relief. If there's going to be tax relief, then everybody ought to get tax relief. And so we cut all taxes. It's important that those tax rates stay low, particularly for small businesses. I look forward to making the case to the American people and reminding them that tax relief helped the small-business sector immeasurably.

Most small businesses are Subchapter S corporations or sole proprietorships. And so when you cut income-tax rates, you're really affecting small-business capital formation, which has been a vital part of our recovery. The small-business sector is strong. What I'm telling you is, good tax policy is a part of keeping this country competitive. Good tax policy relative to our competition is what is necessary to make sure that there's economic vitality in the long run.

To make sure America stays competitive and to make sure jobs stay home and jobs are vibrant here, we need an energy policy in America. It's hard to project a strong and vital economy if you're not sure if you got any energy. If you're worried about a modern electricity system—we went through this before, last summer. Remember, Mayor? I called George and the mayor. It was a difficult period of time if you're in a leadership role. Imagine what it's like if you're a small manufacturing company reliant upon electricity in order to manufacture a product. If you're competing not only in the American economy but the global economy and you're not sure if you're going to get any electricity, it's an issue as to whether or not you're going to be able to stay in business. And so we need an energy policy that, first of all, allows for and encourages the modernization of our electricity grids.

The other problem we got is that we're dependent on foreign sources of energy. It's going to be hard to stay competitive so long as America is reliant upon somebody else for our energy supply. Now, I believe technology can make a huge difference in terms of consumption by encouraging conservation. I think there's great potential for renewables and alternative sources of energy. I mean, I'd love to be the President one day to be able to stand up and say, "We've grown

enough crops so we're no longer dependent upon a source of energy," and that's possible. It's just not possible for the short run.

And so we've got to have a good energy policy that gets us to where technology will change our uses of energy and the sources of energy, which means we need clean coal technology, which means we need to explore for natural gas, which means we need reasonable nuclear energy policy. In order for this country to remain competitive, we have got to become less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

Lasting prosperity means that the country must be confident with its trade policy. The tendency is to—in the country, is to, if you're doubtful about our ability to compete, is to promote what I call economic isolationism, which means the willingness to either pull back from aggressive trade policy or to encourage the creation of tariffs and barriers to trade. I think that would be a huge mistake for people looking for work. I think it would be a big mistake to kind of lose our confidence in the world when it comes to trading. Listen, we're great at a lot of things, and when you're good at something, you need to be promoting it. We're great at growing things like corn and soybeans and cows and hogs. And we ought to be aggressively selling those products overseas. We're wonderful at entertainment. We're excellent at high-tech. These are our competitive advantages, and rather than losing our confidence, we ought to be more confident than ever.

And trade policy, as far as I'm concerned, really means having other nations treat us as we treat them. It's been the policy of many administrations, both Republican and Democrat, to open up our markets so that our consumers have got choice. They've got competition for their dollar, which is good for price and good for quality. The problem we face in the world is other nations haven't treated us the same, and so it's policy of this administration is, rather than retreat and be pessimistic, is to be confident and bold and insist others open up their markets. Lasting prosperity means that the country must fight off economic isolationism and open up as many markets as possible, so we can compete in a fair way.

Lasting prosperity means we've got to have reasonable medical policy. The cost of health care makes it awfully difficult for, starting with small businesses, to expand and hire new people. I've spent a lot of time with the entrepreneurs of America, and they're saying that the cost of medicine is one of the primary factors that prevents aggressive expansion of the job base, as far as their individual company is concerned.

We've addressed it this way: First, you've got to understand there's the philosophical fight in Washington; there are those who promote policies that will make it certain that the Federal Government makes the medical decisions for people. I think it's absolutely wrong. I believe in the opposite. I believe if you empower consumers and give consumers more options from which to choose, medical policy becomes more affordable and more available.

And that's why a key component of our health care vision is what's called health savings accounts. They're a new product. They're just becoming online. But they will enable individuals and small businesses to better afford health care. They will better drive price, and they'll better enhance quality. And there are some other practical things that need to be done. Association health care plans will allow small businesses to pool risk, just like big businesses get to do, in order to be able to better afford medical care.

We need to make sure we use our technologies wisely so that we can strip out unnecessary costs and enhance quality by promoting an aggressive expansion of technology. One of the interesting things is most businesses here are very productive because they use the IT available—not so for the medical field. I mean, there are vast improvements to be had by the expansion of information technologies in the field. And one of the roles of the Federal Government is to provide standards so that the technology and the information can be shared and exploited in a proper way.

And finally, look, we need medical liability reform in the country. If you're interested in making sure health care is available and affordable, we've got to have a system that doesn't reward trial lawyers simply for filing lawsuits.

Speaking about trial lawyers, in order that there be lasting prosperity—in other words, when I say “lasting prosperity,” I mean, to create an environment so that the great entrepreneurial spirit flourishes—we better reign in the junk and frivolous lawsuits that threaten capital formation. That's why I'm strongly for the asbestos legislation that's stuck in the Senate. That's why I'm strongly for class-action lawsuit reform that's stuck in the Senate—the same place, by the way, where medical liability reform is stuck—in the Senate.

But I will continue to push the issue, not only in the campaign but, should I be fortunate enough to serve 4 more years, because the idea is to create a fair legal environment and, at the same time, encourage capital formation, risktaking, and business expansion, so that the prosperity which we have today will last beyond us, will last beyond this administration. I'm going to give a speech on Monday talking about the innovation society, the expansion of a broadband technology in a market-driven way, and the role of Government is to make sure we don't overtax the broadband technology so it gets spread out, and doesn't overregulate. And it will take—the market will act, if we create the environment for market forces to flourish.

And so one of the things I'm going to campaign a lot on and talk to the American people about is that, listen, we've handled a tough recession, and I recognize there needs to be more. It's given me a chance to put in place the framework for prosperity which will last for a while, so that people can find work and realize their dreams, so people who want to start their own business feel comfortable doing so.

See, one of the wonderful things about the Presidency is I get to see success stories. People have had an idea in their head; they went to their garage; they started their own business. And now they're creating jobs for people. They've got an asset to call their own. It's just—I think it's so important that the country elect a President who understands the power and the promise of the entrepreneurial spirit. I look forward to making the case that I'm the person.

Abroad, we've got issues as well. I mean, we're at war. I will make the case that I'm

prepared to continue to lead the country to win the war, not just fight the war but win the war.

An American President must speak clearly, and when he speaks, must mean what he says, in order to make the world more peaceful. And that requires a clear vision about where you want to lead. I believe strongly in the power of freedom, the transforming power of freedom. I know that free societies are peaceful societies. I believe the Almighty has—believes that every person should be free. It's a gift from the Almighty, regardless of their religion or the color of their skin. I believe that as the torchbearer of freedom, the United States must lead and must never shirk our duty to lead.

America must lead when it comes to fighting the war on terror. We must continue to rally a coalition of the willing to stay tough and determined and rout out Al Qaida before they hit us again. That's our obligation. That means when we say we're going to lead, we do, without hesitation, without fear of a political poll or a focus group. If we say we're going to be steadfast and strong, we must be steadfast and strong, and I will, as the President.

I said very clearly that if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist, and I meant every word of that. The action in Afghanistan showed the people I meant what I said. The Taliban evidently didn't believe us. They do now, and they're no longer in power, and Afghanistan is no longer a haven for terrorist training camps.

We still have a task to do in Afghanistan. Part of winning the war on terror is to make sure that countries that we have liberated are free and peaceful and prosperous and hopeful. And Afghanistan is turning that way. It's hard work there in Afghanistan. After all, they were savaged by the Taliban. Remember the—remember what these people were like. It's hard for the American citizen to understand the nature of the Taliban. These are people who wouldn't let young girls go to school.

There's a movie called "Osama." I wish you'd look at it. It's an interesting movie. It talks about what life was like in Afghanistan. It also speaks—when I talk to the American people about what it means to liberate peo-

ple, the movie says it a lot better than I can, about what life was like prior to the arrival of a coalition.

So we're working hard in Afghanistan. There are people still lurking around there that we'll find. We're sharing intelligence. We're watching money trails, just like we are in other countries as well. But part of the war on terror is to fight a different kind of war and win a different kind of war. We've got over 10,000 troops there. They're doing their job, brave souls, courageous Americans, and other nations are helping as well. NATO is involved with provincial reconstruction teams. The world is getting better there.

Karen Hughes reported back the other day the difference between what she saw the first time she went and the last time she went is just—just an excitement. There's an air of hope; there's an air of promise, which is essential for a nation to grow up and be peaceful.

In Iraq, everybody knows the decision-making process. If they don't, I'll remind them that after 9/11, another lesson is that you've got to deal with threats before they become real, which is part of the reality of the world we live in today. If we see a threat gathering overseas, we can't ignore it anymore. That doesn't mean every threat will be dealt with militarily. That's the last option. A Commander in Chief worth his salt is somebody who commits troops last, not first, and it was my last option.

That's why I went to the United Nations and said, "You've looked at the intelligence, the same intelligence we've looked at, and you've seen him to be a threat. I can understand why you think he's a threat. Not only does the intelligence say he's a threat, he used weapons of mass destruction. He's a man who was willing to murder his own people, the guy who paid suiciders to go to Israel to kill. He's a person who declared his hatred for America. He's a threat. Now, let's collectively deal with him." The United Nations said, "You bet. We will."

The Security Council voted unanimously, and the message was loud and clear. It said, "If you do not disarm, you will face serious consequences." When the American President speaks—and I echoed that sentiment—we must mean it, and I meant it. And he

didn't disarm. Quite the contrary. Like he had for the past decade, he thumbed his nose at the free world. He was given all the chances in the world to disarm. He was given the chances not to deceive. He was given the chances to leave peacefully. And when he didn't, we acted with a coalition of the willing. And the world is better off because Saddam Hussein is no longer in power.

Part of the war on terror is making sure that a free Iraq emerges. I want to be in office so I can work toward that moment. It's an historic opportunity. We should think about what the world will be like with a free and peaceful and democratic Iraq in the heart of the Middle East. It's hard to envision right now because it hasn't been that way.

There are a lot of people in the world who believe that certain societies can't self-govern. That's not what Americans believe. I told you, we believe freedom is in the soul of every human being. People long for freedom. It's not easy, though, to go from being tortured and maimed and a society where there is mass graves to a free society. It's hard work. It's really hard work. But Americans are used to hard work when it comes to a cause greater than ourself. And that's what we're doing, and we'll stay the course.

As I said in this press conference the other night, it was a tough several weeks. I know it was. And a lot of families have suffered as a result of the sacrifice of their loved ones. But the sacrifice will make America more secure and the world peaceful and free. This is historic times.

The story I shared the other day is one I'll share with you again. It's the one about visiting with Prime Minister Koizumi. And we were eating Kobe beef in Tokyo, and we were talking about North Korea. It turns out most of the world's problems ends up on the desk in the Oval Office, and there's one right there. And we were talking about how we could work together to convince the dictator in North Korea to disarm, to meet the demands of the free world that the Peninsula, Korean Peninsula be nuclear-weapons-free. And it dawned on me in the course of our conversation that had we not gotten it right after World War II, I wouldn't have been having the conversation, or it's likely I

wouldn't have been having the conversation, with Prime Minister Koizumi.

And it was a refreshing moment when I thought about that. I thank the people who have preceded for having the vision necessary to set the conditions so that the American President and the Japanese Prime Minister could collaborate for world peace.

And that's what we're doing now. During that dinner, I also thought about making sure we fulfill the mission we're on in Iraq so that an American President could ultimately sit down with a duly-elected Iraqi leader and talk about how to make the Middle East more secure or how to deal with current security problems that might be affecting the security of the American people. These are historic times.

The killers in Iraq want us to leave, and they do for a reason. They hate freedom. Freedom really troubles them. Free societies change the habits of men and women. Free societies lift the sights and hopes of people, and that scares the terrorists and scares the thug. And that's why you're seeing them react the way they are. We're not leaving. We're not leaving. When America says something, we've got to mean it. We said to the Iraqi people, "We stand with you. We stand with you as you achieve your aspirations as free people. Nothing will shake our will." The American President must mean what he says in order to make the world a more peaceful and free place.

Because we acted in Iraq, there won't be mass graves. Because we acted in Iraq, Libya changed her behavior and is now voluntarily getting rid of weapons of mass destruction. Because we acted in Iraq, freedom is arising in the heart of the Middle East. Because we acted in Iraq, America is more secure and will be more secure in the years to come.

We have great responsibilities as the country, and I look forward to explaining to the American people what I mean by that. We have a responsibility to lead the world toward peace. We have a responsibility to lead a coalition to fight terror. We have a responsibility to help those who hurt, and that's why I went before the Congress and asked them to join me in supporting a compassionate initiative to help fight HIV/AIDS in places like Africa

or the Caribbean. With our power comes responsibilities to make the world a better place. And I look forward to making my case to the American people that I understand that responsibility and look forward to assuming that responsibility on behalf of our people.

Finally, one of the things that convinced me to go into politics in the first place is that Government has a chance to help change a culture. And the culture that I aspire for America is one that I call the responsibility era, where people know clearly that there are certain responsibilities that come with citizenship. If you're a mother or a father, you are responsible for loving your child with all your heart and all your soul. I like to remind people that in a responsibility era, that if you're a CEO in corporate America, you're responsible for telling the truth. There should be no doubt in your mind—the responsibility that it's not acceptable to change the books in a way that is illegal. In a responsibility era, education, for example, is that people have got to take responsibility for their schools. Government has got to be responsible for giving people more options in schools, by the way. But there's a responsibility that comes with making sure the education systems run well. There's a responsibility to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

And one of the responsibilities as President is understanding the strength of the country lies in the hearts and souls of the citizens. It's really not in the halls of our Government. See, that's not where the strength of the country is. It's in the souls of the people. And if you understand that, then you're able to utilize the great power of the Presidency to rally that strength, to call people to a higher calling.

As I look around the room here, I see people who have done fantastic work about making the communities in which they live a better place, people who have heard the call to love a neighbor by supporting good education programs or good health programs, mentoring programs. Each of us has a responsibility, in my judgment, to help feed the hungry and house the homeless, love the lonely—part of being an American. And the President must understand that, that there's

a responsibility to capture the American spirit and call people to a higher calling. And I look forward to doing that for 4 more years.

I want to thank you for your help. This is an important election. A lot turns on the election. And I've got a reason for wanting to serve 4 more years, and I appreciate you supporting me in that endeavor.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. at the River Club. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. George E. Pataki of New York; Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York City; Mercer Reynolds, national finance chairman, Bush-Cheney '04, Inc.; Al Hoffman, finance chairman, Republican National Committee; Karen Hughes, former Counselor to the President; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Iraq

April 17, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration. This report includes matters relating to post-liberation Iraq under section 7 of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-338).

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 21.

Remarks to the 2004 National and State Teachers of the Year

April 21, 2004

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Welcome to the Rose Garden.

I told you not to tell the Elvis story. [Laughter] She told it anyway, didn't she?

Every President since Harry Truman has presented this award, Teacher of the Year Award. And there's a good reason for that. When you're in the company of some of the Nation's finest citizens, our greatest teachers, you're in the company of people who give their hearts and their careers to improving the lives of children. You're in the company of the best of our country.

I want to congratulate the teachers who are here from around the country. It is a great experience for Laura and me to greet you in the Oval Office. I guess the word I would describe the teachers as they came through is, they're joyous people. There's such a joy that radiates on your face and in your character. And on behalf of our Nation, I want to thank you for what you do. You make a great contribution.

In spite of the fact that she told the Elvis story, the best decision I made was to marry a teacher. Laura is a great First Lady for our country, and I'm really proud of her.

Besides the distinguished teachers who are here, I see we've got some other distinguished citizens with us today. Gene Hickok is the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education. Thank you for coming, Gene. I'm glad you're here.

From the great State of Kansas, Senator Brownback and Congressman Dennis Moore—I'm honored you both are here. Thanks for coming. I appreciate the fact that Lindsey Graham from South Carolina is here and Congressman Gresham Barrett. Thank you both for coming. I see Maria Cantwell, Senator from the State of Washington, is with us today and Congressman George Nethercutt—appreciate you all being here.

I appreciate so very much the Governor of the great State of Rhode Island, and the first lady, Sue, is with us. Thank you both for being here today—honored you took time to come. I'm confident our honoree is really pleased you're here.

I appreciate the fact that Senator Chafee—Senator Linc Chafee and Senator Jack Reed have joined us. Thank you for coming. And Congressman Jim Langevin is with us as well. Good to see you, friend. I'm glad you're back.

I also, too, want to congratulate the National Teacher of the Year finalists: Keil Hileman from DeSoto, Kansas; Jason Fulmer from Graniteville, South Carolina—you've been there, haven't you, Senator?—that's good—[laughter]—Dennis Griner from Palouse, Washington; and of course, our honoree, Kathy Mellor.

I also want to congratulate Kathy's family, Duke and her three children who have joined us today. I know there are some friends here with Kathy. Chris Sirr is with Kathy. She came all the way over, and I know there's other friends as well, and I'm honored that they would take time out of their lives to support their friend and honor their buddy in what is an important moment for our Nation, as we honor those who dedicate their lives to teaching.

I want to thank Tom Houlihan, who is the executive director of the Council of Chief State School Officers. Ernie Fleishman, the senior vice president of education of Scholastic, Inc., thank you for being here. I want to thank the Council of Chief State School Officers and Scholastic, Inc., for organizing this program. I also want to thank Peter McWalters, who's the chief state school officer of Rhode Island.

Welcome, everybody. Thanks for coming.

It is fitting we have this annual ceremony because teachers are charged with a great mission. You do the vital work of teaching our children. You give them the skills that will help them succeed. You lay the foundation for realizing the American Dream.

You do more than that, though. You kindle imaginations. You foster a love for learning that can last a lifetime. What a fantastic gift to give a child. The best teachers treat every child with dignity and fairness and insist that their students treat others the same way. And through your encouragement and caring, you teach the students to respect themselves. To a child, it's a special feeling when a teacher knows your name and asks your opinion, cares what you think and gives you encouragement. For some students, unfortunately, you might be the only person who does that.

Anyone who has visited the classroom can see that teaching demands poise and warmth and, oftentimes, extraordinary patience, as my fourth grade teacher had to show.

[*Laughter*] Yet, only the family members of teachers know some of the other traits that define great teachers. They've seen you stay up late rewriting lesson plans. They've seen you seek new ways to advance your skills. They've seen you somehow summon the energy to make an after-school game or a play. For you, teaching is not just a profession; it's a calling you have answered. And we thank you for that. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We ask a lot from our teachers, and you're right to expect a lot from society. I oftentimes say to people that if you're interested in being a responsible citizen and you're worried about the quality of the education in the community in which you live, do something about it. Support your schools. Support your teachers. Make a difference. As opposed to sitting on the outside complaining, get involved, help people search for excellence.

State Government has got a responsibility as well. I used to say when I was Governor of Texas, education is to a State what defense is to the National Government. It's the most important priority. If people are worried about the quality of the education in the State in which they live, get your Governors to make education the number one priority of the State.

And finally, the Federal Government has got a role to play as well. We've increased spending here by 43 percent. The next budget will make it 50 percent over the past 4 years. In other words, there's a role for the Federal Government. Under the No Child Left Behind Act, we're making sure that Federal money actually goes to help students learn.

I love the spirit of the No Child Left Behind Act, by the way. It's what I call challenging the soft bigotry of low expectations. You see, the reason you're Teachers of the Year is because you set high expectations. You know in your heart of hearts every child can learn. You're willing to raise that bar, to set high standards.

I appreciate so very much the willingness for teachers also to use the accountability systems to determine whether or not what you're doing is working. It's a vital part of making sure that no child gets left behind. But make no mistake about it, we understand

here in Washington that the people who really make student achievement possible are the good-hearted teachers who work hard every single day to make sure that no child is left behind. And that's why we honor you here in the Rose Garden.

Our 2004 National Teacher of the Year is Kathy Mellor. She embodies the qualities that all students and parents hope for in a teacher. For nearly 20 years, Ms. Mellor has taught English as a second language in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Kathy redesigned her district's ESL program to better integrate students with their English-speaking classmates, and the educational benefits of her innovation have been clear.

As the parent of one of Mrs. Mellor's students wrote, "My daughter's English improved unbelievably that year." Gosh, that must be the best words a teacher can hear: "My daughter's English improved unbelievably that year." At the end of the year, she was able to finish her regular class assignments. The mom said, she's able to do so alone or with a little help from her.

Ms. Mellor's creative approach extends well beyond the classroom. She applied for and received a grant to teach English to the mothers of her ESL students. What a great gift. What a caring soul. Working with two colleagues, Ms. Mellor taught a group of women for 2½ years. At the end of the program, the women's language skills and personal confidence were both vastly improved, and many went on to further education and to new jobs.

Ms. Mellor's 19 years in North Kingstown has earned her the reputation for creativity and caring and consistent success. She's humble and generous, always willing to share credit with others and committed to serving as a mentor to every colleague. Because she understands the importance of her work, her energy and her spirit have never waned. As Kathy put it, "After many years, I still look forward to Monday mornings. Working with this diverse community of learners and their supportive families is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done or ever could do." No wonder she's Teacher of the Year.

Every teacher here has chosen a rewarding and optimistic profession. And the families

of America are glad that people like you show up every Monday morning. I thank each of you for your skill and dedication. I thank you for being an integral part of making sure America is a hopeful and optimistic country for all.

And now, it's my honor to introduce and to present this award to the National Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Kathy Mellor.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 11:16 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Donald L. Carcieri of Rhode Island and his wife, Suzanne. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady, who introduced the President.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at the Newspaper Association of America Convention

April 21, 2004

The President. Thank you all. Burl, thank you very much. I kind of like ducking those questions. [Laughter] I appreciate you having me. I hope this toast business becomes a habit—[laughter]—if you know what I mean. [Laughter]

Thanks for letting me come. Tom, thank you for your invitation. Dean, thank you for having me here. Members of the Politburo—[laughter]—I mean, my fellow Americans. [Laughter]

I was thinking about what I was going to tell you when I came over here today, and I thought I'd talk a little bit about the role of the President in creating an environment so that our prosperity lasts and then the role of the President in securing America. And then I'll be glad to duck some questions—[laughter]—just like my mother told me to do. [Laughter]

We're prosperous now, which is good, particularly if you're a guy seeking the vote. New jobs are being created. I think we had 308,000 in the month of March. Industrial production rose at 6.6 percent in the first quarter of this year, which is a positive sign. Homeownership is at the highest rate ever, which is really positive for America. The more people who own something, the better off the country is. Inflation is low. Interest

rates are low, and the economy is growing, which is good news.

And the question is, really, from a Presidential perspective is, what do you do to keep in place an environment so that prosperity lasts beyond just a recovery? It's amazing that we're growing in spite of the fact that we've been through a recession, a war, an emergency, and corporate scandals, which speaks to the resiliency of the American people and the strength of the entrepreneurial spirit.

The way I view the role of Government is that the Government's role isn't to create wealth. The Government's role isn't to say, "I created jobs." The Government's role is to create an environment in which entrepreneurs feel comfortable about expanding the job base and risking capital.

So here are some things that I think our country must do to make sure that we have lasting prosperity, prosperity that reflects the willingness of the American system to put in place a competitive system, competitive with other countries.

First, we've got to have a balanced legal system. I'm deeply concerned about a legal system that is fraught with frivolous and junk lawsuits which make it harder to form businesses, make it less desirable to risk capital. A competitive business environment that will encourage lasting prosperity must mean there needs to be balance in our legal system. There must be tort reform. There's a proper role for tort reform at the Federal Government. Class-action lawsuits need to be reformed, in my judgment. Asbestos reforms legislation is stuck in the Senate, ought to go forward. Obviously, there's a lot that needs to be done at the State level. The President can help nudge that along with the bully pulpit, but the Congress ought to move on tort reform.

And they ought to do so on medical liability reform as well. When I first came to Washington, I wasn't sure if a proper role of the Federal Government was to get involved with medical liability reform. Then I saw what frivolous lawsuits and the defensive practice of medicine do to the Federal budgets. They cost us a lot of money, and it's a national issue, therefore. And so Congress needs to pass medical liability reform, not only to send a message that tort reform is

vital but also to help us control the cost of medicine, which is a second necessary ingredient for there to be lasting prosperity.

I'm a big promoter in what's called health savings accounts and association health care plans, because I believe that the best way to help control health care costs in the long run is to empower consumer decisionmaking in the process, as opposed to Federal Government decisionmaking in the process.

And I readily concede there's a philosophical debate here in Washington, DC, of the proper role of the Federal Government versus the marketplace. It should come as no surprise to you that I tend to side with those who believe market forces are the best way to allocate resources and the best way to help control costs and, therefore, will continue to be a strong proponent of new ideas such as health savings accounts to empower consumers and to encourage the doctor-patient relationship that has been eroded as a result of bureaucracies, both in the private and public sectors, springing forth.

There also needs to be innovation in the health care field as well as the rest of our society. One of the interesting things about health care is, it's kind of like a cottage industry that has yet to adapt to the new technologies of the 21st century. And therefore, there are missed opportunities when it comes to helping control costs and to provide quality care.

The proper role of the Federal Government, in my judgment on this, is to help set a national standard so that the myriad of producers have something around which to make proper decisionmaking when it comes to the use of IT technology. I believe there ought to be broadband in every community and available to every house by the year 2007, in order to make sure America has lasting prosperity. And that's just the beginning. I think not only should broadband be accessible, but there ought to be ample providers available to every house and every community in America.

And two thoughts pop in my mind about making sure that the broadband technology is expanding properly. One, there needs to be good tax policy in order to encourage the spread of broadband technology, which means we shouldn't tax access. If we want

it to spread rapidly and if we want it to be available in all communities, in my judgment the Federal Government should deny taxation to broadband technology access. And secondly, there needs to be good regulatory policy out of the administration so as to encourage the spread of competitive—of services throughout our country.

By being an innovative society and promoting innovation, we'll have lasting prosperity. We're lagging a little bit on broadband technology, the access of broadband technology. And I think we need to kind of accelerate it with good policy and, particularly, good regulatory policy out of the FCC. I think we're getting that from Chairman Powell. I feel comfortable he's got a good and positive vision about how to spread broadband.

You know, it's an interesting debate, of course, during a political year—and actually, almost every year—as to whether or not we ought to be a free-trading nation. I'm a big believer in free trade. If we want to have lasting prosperity, it is essential that the Nation reject the economic isolationism and promote trade.

Our markets are relatively open to other nations. It's a decision, by the way, of administrations from both political parties that it makes sense for the consumers to be able to have more choices and more decisions. When you have more choices and more decisions in the marketplace, you generally get better quality goods at a better price.

And yet, other countries haven't reciprocated. And to me, the proper role of the administration to make sure there's lasting prosperity is to insist that other countries open up their markets, as opposed to closing ours. And we'll continue to do so. We filed a WTO suit against China. We've made some noise here and there. We will insist that the trade laws be enforced.

But it's essential that the country reject economic isolationism if we want to have lasting prosperity. Trade wars will make it incredibly difficult for us to be prosperous and also, by the way, hurt countries on the continent of Africa, for example, desperate, poor little countries trying to develop markets and trying to develop a business community and small businesses. If we don't open up our

markets to them, if we don't trade freely, it'll be difficult for there to be hope in impoverished parts of the world.

We need an energy plan. You know, it's—we're a country where they say, "Okay, what is your plan?" Well, I'm going to jawbone. It's an awkward position for any President to be in. It means we don't have an energy plan, is what it means. It means we're hooked. I get, "What are you going to do about it? Are you going to pick up the phone and hope somebody produces more energy?" That says we're dependent, and we are.

I think we ought to have a full-scale debate and, in my judgment, opening up different supplies of energy. I think we need to promote nuclear energy. I think we need to make sure we've got clean coal technologies available. I think we ought to be exploring for natural gas, where we can find natural gas.

It is—this country is—in order for us to be prosperous in the long run, we can't remain hooked on foreign sources of energy. Obviously, we've got to promote conservation, new technologies. Listen, I'd love to be able to grow our way out of energy independence. There would be nothing better for an American President to say, "Okay, plant more corn, and we'll become less dependent on foreign sources of energy." I fully understand that. The idea of biodiesel makes a lot of sense. We ought to continue to promote research and development. And I'm convinced technologies will help us in the long run when it comes to becoming less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

The question is, what do we do in the next decade? How do we deal with the reality of the situation? And I would hope I can get a bill out of Congress that will encourage additional supply and, at the same time, encourage conservation and reduce demand.

The problem we have in the world, by the way, today is that China is cranking up their economy. Steel prices are high. Energy prices are high, because demand in China is really high. And that's what we're faced with. We're faced with a world economy that's beginning to recover, with supplies getting tight. And without an energy plan, without additional supply, it's going to make us

hard to stay competitive as well as prosperous in the long run.

I see some people who, unfortunately, have to follow me around the country. I've been spending a lot of time recently on job training programs, because education is one really important way as to how we're going to have lasting prosperity. I think if you talk to people on the leading edge of change here in the country, they will tell you that one of their biggest concerns is to be able to find workers that are skilled in the jobs of the 21st century. Obviously, we've got to get it right through the No Child Left Behind Act, which I'll be glad to expound on, if it's one of your questions.

But there needs to be job training programs that recognizes that as technologies race through our society, workers are likely to be left behind. And that's why I have promoted—or could be left behind, is a better way to put it—that's why I have promoted the community college system as a way to make sure that willing workers are matched with employers and they have the skill base to do so. The community college system is affordable, available, and accessible. They're great things. What I like about them is that they're able to adjust their curriculum to be able to meet the demands of those who are actually hiring people.

And finally, a subject that I know that many of you here are delighted with, there needs to be permanency in the Tax Code. We don't need to be raising taxes right now if we want to have lasting prosperity. The worst thing that can happen is to start raising taxes on the American people. If you're a planner and if you're spending capital, it is essential that there be certainty in the Tax Code. And a lot of the provisions of the tax relief we've passed are set to expire. It will be a big mistake, in my judgment, to let them expire. And so I will continue this year and in further years, hopefully, to be talking about permanency with the tax relief and simplification in the Tax Code.

People say, "What do you mean?" I'll give you one example of how to simplify the code. If we can ever get rid of the death tax, forever, it will cut down on about 30 percent of the IRS code, they tell me. By the way, the death tax is bad, in my judgment. You're

taxing a person's assets twice. And if you're interested in making sure the environment for the entrepreneur is strong and vibrant, it doesn't make sense to tax a person's assets twice. My firm belief is if it's your asset, you ought to be able to leave it to whom you want to leave it, without the Federal Government making it awfully difficult to do so.

So that's—those are some ideas, and my job is to think beyond the immediate. And America must be wise about how we stay competitive because the world is really competitive, and it's changing. And the truth of the matter is, to make sure we've got jobs here at home and an expanding job base, we've got to be the best place to do business, the best place to invest capital, the best place for a small-business person to realize his or her dreams, and there are some ideas I just laid out that can help us stay that way.

Security is obviously an issue that's on my mind. It should be on yours. I know it's on yours. You write about it all the time. We're at war, and it's a different kind of war. It is a war that is different because it's hard to really see the enemy, if you know what I mean. This is an enemy that is able to inflict serious destruction on people and yet be nearly invisible most of the time. It's a war in which people are hiding in caves. They give an order, and these people will go kill on a moment's notice. And they don't care who they kill. So in other words, it's an enemy that hides, an enemy that's so ruthless, there's no such thing as innocent or guilt. And they attacked today in Basra. It was a terrorist act today. They just blew up innocent Iraqis. They attacked in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, today, and they attack all the time.

They'd like to attack us again as well, by the way. Obviously, my most solemn duty and the duty of everybody involved with government is to do everything we can to protect the American people. In this war against this enemy, we must use all our assets, not some of our assets but every asset at the disposal of those of us who are in positions of responsibility. Military assets, intelligence assets—we must rely upon alliances.

And I will tell you the cooperation is good. So much has been focused on the decision in Iraq, which, of course, I'll talk about here

in a minute, that people assume that there's not cooperation with nations that didn't agree with the decision in Iraq. That's just simply not the case. We're sharing information with countries that may not have agreed with us in Iraq. We're acting on information that we've passed back and forth together. Alliances are really important in the war against terror. International bodies can be important in the war against terror if they're effective. They're lousy in the war against terror if they're not effective, because this is a results-oriented game we're in right now. We've got to be effective to stop them.

The thing that's interesting and different about this—well, it's not interesting—it's frightening about this war, is America is a battlefield in the war on terror. That's what's changed. We're now a target. It used to be Americans overseas were targets. It's Americans at home are targets. And that changes the equation about how a President must view threats when I see them or when we see them. What do you do about a threat that you see gathering overseas? Do you just kind of hope it goes away, or do you deal with it? And I've obviously made the decision to deal with it.

There's no negotiations with these terrorists. These are not the kind of people you sit down and you negotiate with. You don't sign a treaty with people who are—who don't believe in rules, people who don't have a conscience. The strategy of the terrorists—they're trying to shake our will and turn free nations against each other. And they're—these guys are tough, and they're sophisticated, and they're smart. And we just have to be tougher and smarter and more sophisticated in our approach to finding them.

Al Qaida obviously is the name everybody knows that's associated with the war on terror. And we're hunting them down. It takes a while to find them, but we're using all our assets and resources and friends and allies to bring them to justice. It's the only way you have to deal with them, and it's important that we find them before they come here again or somewhere else, for that matter.

And we're making pretty good progress. If Al Qaida were a board of directors, the chairman and vice chairman might still be out there, but the middle management is

gone. That's not to say that they're not encouraging others to step forward. They are. But we're on the hunt, and we'll stay on the hunt. And it's essential that the country not yield, and lead. The world looks at us, and if we show any weakness whatsoever, there will be weakness in the world. And as I just told you, in order to win this war against these people, there has to be solid cooperation in the world.

Right after September the 11th, I said, "If you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist." I meant that. The American President, when he speaks, must speak clearly and must mean what he says. I meant what I said. The Taliban were given a notice. They didn't respond, and so we got rid of them. It just wasn't America; it was others.

The world is much better off for that decisive action by our troops and the troops of other people, and so are the people who live in Afghanistan. I would urge you to see the movie "Osama." It's hard for the American mentality to grasp how barbaric the Taliban was toward women in Afghanistan. So see the movie, and then maybe—it'll speak better than I can possibly speak. Burl is always accusing me of not being able to speak so good anyway. *[Laughter]*

We're making good progress in Afghanistan. I'm proud of Karzai. He stepped up and led. The Afghan army is functioning. Listen, there's still work to be done there. There's work to be done in most countries where tyranny reigned. See, it's hard to go from a tyrannical state to a free state. It's hard to go into a society where if you stepped out of line, you were brutalized, into a society where people take risks for peace and freedom.

And that's what you're seeing in Afghanistan, and frankly, that's what you're seeing in Iraq. In Iraq, I saw a gathering threat. The world saw a gathering threat. The United Nations saw a threat. I went to the United Nations. I said, "Listen, you've been calling upon this guy to disarm for 10 years. He's chosen not to. Now let's give him one final chance to do so." And unanimously, the Security Council stepped up and said, "Disarm, or face serious consequences," and so did the United States. And when you say,

"Disarm, or face serious consequences," you better mean what you say when you say it.

And Saddam Hussein chose not to disarm. Listen, we viewed him as a threat. The intelligence said he was a threat. We all thought he had weapons. We found out—the truth will be known over time. We found out he had the ability to make weapons. He had the capability. I think the intent was clear. After all, he hated America. He paid suiciders to go kill Jews. He used weapons of mass destruction on his own people. And so he defied the world, and he's no longer in power. The world is better off for it, and so are the people of Iraq.

Because we moved, torture chambers are closed; mass graves won't be filled; and democracy is growing in the heart of the Middle East. I'm oftentimes asked, "Is there a solution for the war on terror?" Yes, there's a long-term solution, and that's freedom. See, free societies don't promote terror. Free societies are peaceful societies. Free societies are societies that provide hope and opportunity for people.

Now look, there's a debate, I readily concede. Some people don't believe if you're a Muslim or an Arab you can be free. I just strongly disagree with that thought. I think everybody yearns to be free, and I think everybody can self-govern.

I remind you, some people thought the Japanese could never self-govern or be free. And yet, as I said in my press conference the other day, I had the honor of sitting down with—dinner with President Koizumi—or Prime Minister Koizumi, and we were talking about North Korea, which I'll get to here in a second.

It's amazing—he's a great guy, by the way. Elvis Presley is one of his favorites. *[Laughter]* His favorite movie was Gary Cooper in "High Noon." One time he walked up to me and said, "You like Cooper." *[Laughter]* I said, "I'm like Cooper?" He said, "Yes." *[Laughter]* I finally figured out what he meant. *[Laughter]*

We're talking about peace on the Korean Peninsula with a friend who is a former enemy. Some people never thought they could self-govern or be free. It dawned on me, by the way, in that conversation, someday an American President will be sitting

down with a duly elected official from Iraq, talking about how to secure the peace better in the Middle East. This is an historic moment. Times are tough. The last couple of weeks have been really rough, roughest on the families of those who lost their lives and those who wonder about the security and safety of their loved ones.

And the reason why they're tough is because people want to stop the advance of freedom. That's why. They can't stand the thought of Iraq being free. The stakes are high. They view freedom as a real threat to their ambitions. And the Iraqi people are looking—they're looking at America and saying, "Are we going to cut and run again?" That's what they're thinking as well.

And we're not going to cut and run if I'm in the Oval Office. We will do our job. I believe that people yearn to be free. I believe the people of Iraq will self-govern, and I believe the world will be better off for it. I believe freedom in the heart of the Middle East is an historic opportunity to change the world, and it's essential that America show resolve and strength and not have our will shaken by those who are willing to murder the innocent.

I mentioned Korea. I think it's—different threats are dealt with in different ways. When I came to office, the relationship on the Korean Peninsula, with North Korea was like "America and North Korea." There was—we were expected to solve the problem, and it wasn't working. So I decided that—we tried another equation, and that is convince others in the neighborhood to become a party to convincing Kim Chong-il to disarm. It wasn't working, because if you can ever get the relationship between the United States and—kind of get a bilateral responsibility going with a guy like Kim Chong-il, all he's got to do is frighten everybody, and they run up to the United States and said, "Oh, go fix it." You know, "Take care of business."

The only way to convince Kim Chong-il to disarm is to get China very much involved in the process, which we have done. It wasn't easy work because the Chinese felt it was the U.S. responsibility, and they really didn't want to have equity in the process. They were—we shared the same goal. As a matter of fact, when Jiang Zemin came to Crawford,

he was quick to stand up and say, "We don't want any nuclear weapons in the Korean Peninsula." He understood—he understands the stakes. The stakes are, of course, America will defend herself if we have to, and he understands that. The other thing is that he understands that if one country were to develop a nuclear weapon, other countries in the neighborhood might develop a nuclear weapon, and that wouldn't be in his interest.

And so now the Chinese are involved with the process, as are the Russians and the Japanese and the South Koreans. And it's a steady, slow process to convince Kim Chong-il that his interests are not served by the development of a nuclear weapon that he can threaten the world with.

We've made some other progress with him, by the way, through the Proliferation Security Initiative. It's an initiative of—gosh, I think 18 countries have now signed on or something like that, some number close to that—where people are willing to interdict ships floating out of North Korea if we suspect there's cargo, illicit cargo like arms or drugs on them in order to at least stop him from exporting weapons that will be—could be used by all kinds of different people.

Part of understanding North Korea better was a great success by our team and the Brits in unraveling the A.Q. Khan network. A.Q. Khan was a nuclear scientist in Pakistan that was willing to sell state secrets in order to make money. It's real dangerous, by the way, when you have somebody who is willing to sell information purely for money, because you don't know where that information might end up. And the ambitions of the terrorist network, of course, would be to have the ultimate weapons at their disposal in order to blackmail and/or to harm.

The Libyans made a good decision to disarm. They were dangerous. We have found more than we thought they had, but they made a wise decision to do so. The reason I bring all that up is the war on terror is broader than just the Afghan or the Iraq theater. The war on terror is finding cells and routing people out before they attack. The war on terror is to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The war on terror is to call people to account early, before it's too late. The war on terror is to recognize

America is a part of the battlefield, and we must deal with threats before they're too late.

The long-term strategy of this Government is to spread freedom around the world. And I believe—I told you, a free Iraq will be a major change agent for world peace.

I also believe a free Palestinian state will be a major change agent for world peace. Ariel Sharon came to America and he stood up with me and he said, "We are pulling out of Gaza and parts of the West Bank." In my judgment, the whole world should have said, "Thank you, Ariel. Now we have a chance to begin the construction of a peaceful Palestinian state."

You know, there was kind of silence, wasn't there? Because the responsibility is hard. It's hard to be responsible for promoting freedom and peace when you're used to something else. If you don't have the aspirations of the people firmly embedded in your soul, it's hard to take a gamble for peace by putting the institutions of a free society in place, institutions that are bigger than the people.

The Palestinian leadership has failed the people year after year after year. And now is the time for the world to step up and take advantage of this opportunity and help to build a Palestinian state that's committed to the principles of individual rights and rule of law and fairness and justice so the Palestinian people have a chance to grow a peaceful state and so that Israel has a partner in peace, not a launching pad of terrorist attacks, on her border.

And finally, the United States has got responsibilities bigger than just leading the world toward peace and freedom. We've got the responsibility of helping to relieve suffering and hunger where we see it as well. You know, I mentioned to you that—I checked with Colin; I think this is true—that we're the biggest food donor to the North Korean people. That's a fact I don't think a lot of people know. I just hope the food goes to the people and not to the generals. Part of the issue is it's hard to verify whether or not the food is actually being distributed. But nevertheless, our heart is right.

We want to help people who are hungry. We want to help people who suffer from HIV/AIDS. We want to make sure we help lift countries out of terrible poverty by open-

ing our markets for their goods and services. We have a responsibility beyond just being the leader in the war against terror. We have a responsibility to be the leader in the war against hunger and disease and hopelessness. And we are—and we are.

The role of the President is to think about the long term, is to think about how you put in place policy that will be historic, policies that will be—that will help change the world for the better. And I think we're doing just that.

I'm ready to answer some questions. How long was that speech? How long did I talk? Too long, right? *[Laughter]*

Response to Terrorism

Burl Osborne. Mr. President, you mentioned how difficult it is to visualize the enemy in a war on terror. And you also pointed out the long-term goal of freedom and democracy as an answer. And yet, today there is an AP poll that shows two-thirds of the people in this country think it's at least somewhat likely we'll have an attack before the elections, and nearly half the people are at least considering the possibility that at this point in time, the terrorists may be winning. And my question is, how, in the interim between now and that long-term, how do you persuade these people who are in doubt that they're wrong, that it won't end that way?

The President. Two-thirds of the Americans think we're going to get hit again? Well, I can understand why they think they're going to get hit again. They saw what happened in Madrid. This is a hard country to defend. We are making good progress in the defense of America. We've got a Department of Homeland Security that now enables people to better coordinate and cooperate and share information. We've got a PATRIOT Act—which needs to be renewed, by the way, and strengthened, in my judgment—that is really important to allow the criminal division and the intelligence division of the FBI to share information, which they could not do before.

And by the way, any provision in the PATRIOT Act that enables us to collect more information requires court order, just like it does when you're dealing with a mobster or

a doctor that's creating criminal problems or white-collar crime.

There is—but the PATRIOT Act helps. It helps us to be able to connect the dots, is a common phrase here in Washington.

Our intelligence is good. It's just never perfect, is the problem. We are disrupting some cells here in America. We're chasing people down, but it is—we've got a big country, Burl. I'm from Texas. It is difficult to stop people coming across the Rio Grande River, whether they be people looking for work or people looking to do harm, and so I can see why people feel that way. And we've just got to stay on the offense, is what we've got to do.

And what was the other part of the question?

Mr. Osborne. You answered it.

The President. Okay, good. [Laughter] At least I didn't duck this one.

Mr. Osborne. We'll give you a chance to duck one.

The President. Okay, good. [Laughter]

International Cooperation in the War on Terror

Mr. Osborne. As you mentioned, there have been other incidents today in Iraq and Saudi Arabia. And you also mentioned the importance of our alliances. We've had some arrests in Britain, even in Spain and elsewhere.

The question is, are you satisfied with the level of cooperation among the governments in combating these attacks?

The President. Well, yes, I am. I think, obviously, we've got to continue to work to make sure people understand the threat is real. For a while, obviously, America was the most energetic in fighting terror because the memory of September the 11th was fresh in our mind and people felt like, "It couldn't happen to me." There's been a lot of attacks since September the 11th, which has convinced people that we've got to work together.

Saudi Arabia is a good example. This is a place, when they got attacked a year ago—that helped change their attitude toward chasing down Al Qaida types within their country. And the attack again today on Riyadh was a reminder that there are people

that would like—I don't want to guess their intentions—I think they would like to overthrow the ruling Government. They certainly want to frighten everybody and kill as many as they can.

The attacks on Istanbul happened when I was in Great Britain, and they were devastating attacks to the Brits—a lot of Brits were there—but also to the Muslims who were killed.

And the cooperation is good. But it's an issue that you just constantly have to work on to remind people of the stakes that just—you've got to share intelligence better. And sometimes bureaucracies get in the way of the fast flow of information. I suspect governments complain that we might not be as forthcoming as quickly as they would hope us to be. I haven't heard much of that, but we're getting good cooperation. And it's—but I say it's an issue we've got to continue to work.

Pakistan, we're getting good cooperation. Just think about what life was like prior to September the 11th in Pakistan. Pakistan was friendly to the Taliban. And fortunately, our Government, thanks to the good work of Colin Powell, convinced President Musharraf that that was not in his interests. His interests were to be working with us and fighting off the terror. Of course, since then Al Qaida has tried to kill him twice. I think it confirms the fact that he's chosen the right side. We're trying to help him.

And he's active in the war on terror. And he is—but he's got issues, just like any of these countries have got issues. But he's done—in my judgment, he's been a good, strong ally. And I'm pleased with the fact that progress is now being made on the relationship between Pakistan and India. I don't know if you remember, I think it was in the year '01—I don't see many foreign policy kind of reporters here, but '01 was the year that we had shuttle diplomacy to convince Pakistan and India not to go to war with each other.

Powell went, and then Straw went from Great Britain, and then Armitage went, and then whoever his equivalent is from Great Britain went, with the idea of kind of talking everybody down. And now, it's quite the opposite; they're talking with each other in a

positive way and hopefully can get some sticky issues resolved, for the sake of world peace and stability in that part of the world. I think progress is being made. But we can always—we will always find ways to improve our alliances.

I mentioned to you—look, I mentioned to you the need for international bodies to be effective. We're working with the IAEA with Iran. And the Iranians need to feel the pressure from the world that any nuclear weapons program will be uniformly condemned. It's essential that they hear that message. An appropriate international body to deal with them is the IAEA. They signed an additional protocol, which was a positive development. The foreign ministers of Great Britain, France, and Germany have interceded on behalf of the civilized world to talk plainly to the Iranians. One of my jobs is to make sure they speak as plainly as possible to the Iranians and make it absolutely clear that the development of a nuclear weapon in Iran is intolerable, and a program is intolerable. Otherwise they will be dealt with, starting through the United Nations.

And hopefully we're making progress there as well. It's a tough, tough crowd to negotiate with. They've got a classic—it's a really long answer, I know. At least I'm answering it. [Laughter] They've got the classic principle-to-nonprinciple negotiating strategy available for them. They've got a fellow sitting up on top, probably the decisionmaker on most matters, and yet the world goes to Khatami, so you're not really sure if the message is getting totally delivered or not. I think the message is getting delivered to them that it's intolerable if they develop a nuclear weapon. It would be intolerable to peace and stability in the Middle East if they get a nuclear weapon, particularly since their stated objective is the destruction of Israel.

Last question.

Mr. Osborne. Just for the record, I've always understood you clearly. [Laughter]

The President. Then why don't you write that way? [Laughter]

Mr. Osborne. Touche, touche.

The President. I've known him a long time. [Laughter]

Democracy in Iraq

Mr. Osborne. There's an editorial in the Washington Post today that opines that your opponent has changed his stance on Iraq.

The President. I'm not going to talk about my opponent here.

Mr. Osborne. We're not finished with the question.

The President. Okay. [Laughter] Touche back. [Laughter]

Mr. Osborne. And he is saying that—he no longer is saying that the outcome in Iraq has to be a democracy but rather that it has to be a stable government, and that, in their words, democracy is an option. My question is, is a democratic form of government in Iraq an option for you, or is it an imperative?

The President. It's necessary. It's what will change the world, help change the world. And you either believe people can self-govern or not, believe democracy is possible in that part of the world, and I think it is. I think it is.

Listen, thanks for letting me come. I hope you toast more often. [Laughter] God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Burl Osborne, chairman, and Tom Curley, president and chief executive officer, Associated Press; William Dean Singleton, vice chairman and chief executive officer, MediaNews Group, Inc.; President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea; President Jiang Zemin of China; A.Q. Khan, former head of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan; Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Jack Straw of the United Kingdom; former Minister of Foreign Affairs Dominique de Villepin of France; Minister of Foreign Affairs Joschka Fischer of Germany; and Ayatollah Khomeini and President Mohammad Khatami of Iran.

Remarks at a Reception for the National Race for the Cure

April 21, 2004

Thank you. Welcome. Thanks for coming. Thank you, darling. *[Laughter]* What she forgot to say was “a Race for the Cure ex-runner.” I’m afraid my knees hurt. *[Laughter]* But thanks for coming to the White House. I appreciate your support in such an important cause.

I too want to thank Nancy Brinker. I picked her to be the Ambassador to Hungary because I know her to be an accomplished, smart, capable woman. And she did a fabulous job as the Ambassador, and I’m real proud to call her friend. She’s a social entrepreneur. She uses her skills to advance humanity in a positive way, and she did so in the name of her sister, Susan Komen. And Stephanie, I’m glad you’re here—Susan’s daughter. Thanks for coming. Proud you’re here. I bet you’re proud of your old auntie. *[Laughter]* That’s good.

I appreciate Susan Braun being here. Susan, you’re doing a fine job. Nancy was up for dinner the other night, and so I was asking her about how everything was going in the foundation. I said, “Have you found anybody who can run this thing?” And she said, “Yes, Susan Braun. She’s doing a heck of a job.” So if you can meet her standards, you must be doing a heck of a job. *[Laughter]* Thanks for your hard work.

LaSalle, it’s good to see you, sir. Dr. LaSalle Leffall is the chairman of the board. Thank you for taking time to support this meaningful cause. I want to thank the other board members and supporters who are here as well.

Some of corporate America is represented here, supporting this fine foundation. Thanks for being a good corporate citizen for our country. Thanks for doing your duty and supporting such a fine cause.

My buddy Ann Veneman, who is the Secretary of Agriculture, is with us. She’s a survivor. I’m really proud of Ann. She’s doing an excellent job as a member of my Cabinet. Glad you’re doing well. Thanks for coming.

I’m really glad Sue Ann Thompson is here. It’s great to see you, Sue Ann. She’s married to Tommy, who is not here—better half of

the family showed up. *[Laughter]* Thanks for coming, Sue Ann. Really good to see you.

I appreciate Congressman Sue Myrick. I’m glad you’re here. She’s one of the co-chair of the House Cancer Caucus, along with Steve Israel. Thank you for coming, Steve. I’m proud you both are here. Sue brought her grandson Jake, Jake Forest. I just thought I’d say his name so he would get on C-SPAN. *[Laughter]*

It’s good to see two other Members of the Congress who have taken time to come out, offer their support, Joe Barton from Texas and Marsha Blackburn from Tennessee. Thank you both for being here. I’m proud you came too.

I want to honor the cancer survivors who are here. We appreciate your courage and your steadfast strength and your willingness to share your stories and your experiences with others.

The Susan G. Komen Foundation Annual Race for the Cure is now a national tradition. And it didn’t take long to get there. As Laura mentioned, the race started—she said her home State—it also happens to be mine—*[laughter]*—in Dallas, Texas. And it didn’t— from ’83 to now, that’s a couple of decades and a year, and yet when you hear the Race for the Cure, everybody knows what you’re talking about. It’s kind of become the brand name for saving lives. The Komen Foundation has invested nearly \$500 million in the fight against breast cancer. That’s really good.

Laura recognized somebody by name. I am too. Rana Kahl is with us. She participated in her first race 8 years ago. She ran 4 years before being diagnosed on her 33d birthday with breast cancer. And her first time at the race as a survivor was the day after her first chemo treatment. She’s been the chairwoman of the National Race for the Cure’s Survivor Committee for 3 years. She’s lending her heart and her expertise.

Rana celebrated her fourth cancer-free anniversary last month, and she and her husband, Kevin, welcomed their first child last year. It’s a beautiful story. She said, “Because of the work we do today, other lives will be saved,” which is the spirit of the Komen Foundation. “Because of the work we do today, other lives will be saved.”

Approximately one in seven women in the United States will develop breast cancer over her lifetime. That means more than 200,000 women will be diagnosed this year. This Government is committed to helping find a cure for breast cancer, and it must be. The Department of Health and Human Services is spending \$900 million on breast cancer research and preventative activities. I want to thank the Members of Congress for your strong support.

My budget has proposed an increase for next year as well. The budget includes \$220 million for an early detection program, promotes mammography use, and helps low-income women afford screenings for breast cancer and cervical cancer. It also includes 768 million to aid breast cancer researchers at the National Institutes of Health. NIH is now conducting the largest trial ever of new early detection technologies. This effort will help doctors target breast cancer at its most treatable stage. Early detection is essential. We're going to continue to work with the Congress to make sure that there is increased access to screening services.

This country is making progress on women's health issues, and I appreciate the leadership of Tommy—Tommy Thompson at the Health and Human Services. Recently, the Komen Foundation honored Tommy—it says here, Secretary Thompson—[laughter]—Secretary Tommy Thompson—[laughter]—with the Women's Health Advocate Award for his work in the area of breast cancer. I know you're proud of him, and so am I.

Secretary Thompson, I will continue to stand by you in your cause. We'll not rest. We'll work to make sure that we do everything we can to help save lives.

The National Race for the Cure is an inspiring example. It's a good example for a lot of others to watch. It's an example of courage and hope and faith, and I want to thank you for your involvement.

Have a great race this June. I wish I could join you. [Laughter] God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 4:38 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Nancy Goodman Brinker, founding chair, Susan Braun, president and chief executive officer, and LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., chairman of the board, Susan G. Komen

Breast Cancer Foundation; and Sue Ann Thompson, wife of Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady, who introduced the President.

Statement on the Elections in South Africa

April 21, 2004

I congratulate President Thabo Mbeki on South Africa's third democratic national election and his party's election victory. The United States also congratulates the people of South Africa as they celebrate on April 27 the 10th anniversary of freedom and democracy replacing apartheid rule. The United States welcomes the peaceful exercise of democracy demonstrated by the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa. All competing parties deserve recognition for playing their role in a multiparty democracy. We commend their acceptance of the outcome and their use of the legal system and the rule of law to resolve disputes.

Presidential Determination on the Sudan Peace Act

April 21, 2004

Presidential Determination No. 2004–29

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on the Sudan Peace Act

Consistent with section 6(b)(1)(A) of the Sudan Peace Act (Public Law 107–245), I hereby determine and certify that the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement are negotiating in good faith and that negotiations should continue.

You are authorized and directed to notify the Congress of this determination and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Remarks on Earth Day in Wells, Maine

April 22, 2004

So great to be here, thanks. Gosh, my outlook improved dramatically the minute I stepped on this beautiful piece of land. Thanks for having me, and thanks for coming out to say hello. It's my honor to celebrate Earth Day with you in a State that I know pretty darn well, in a State that I love, in an area that I now realize I know well because it was right off the beach here that old Number 41 and I liked to try to catch striped bass. *[Laughter]* It's a pretty good place to fish around here.

Before I start going on too long about Mother Earth, I do want to recognize my mother on Earth. Thanks for coming, Mom. I hope you're up the road making my bed. *[Laughter]*

Earth Day has become a great tradition in our country. It's a day that reminds us that we must be good stewards of the land around us. That's what this day says to us, and we're lucky to live in America, because we're blessed with such unbelievable lands. As the President, I'm fortunate to be able to travel and see a lot of our beautiful Nation, whether it be from the—from Maine to the Big Sur in California or parts of the great State of Texas that are beautiful to look at too.

The importance about Earth Day is, is that it reminds us that we can't take the natural wonders for granted. That's what Earth Day says to me, and I hope it says to you as well that we have responsibilities to the natural world to conserve that which we have and to make it even better. That's the call for Earth Day. In the years since Earth Day was established, America has made great strides in honoring the ideal of conservation and living by high standards of stewardship. We've made tremendous progress during the last 4 years. I have a responsibility as the President to put people in an administration that understands the importance of conserving our natural resources and making them better.

My administration has put in place some of the most important anti-pollution policies in a decade, policies that have reduced harmful emissions, reclaimed brownfields, cut

phosphorus releases into our rivers and streams. Since 2001, the condition of America's land, air, and water has improved.

Today I want to talk about wetlands. The old policy of wetlands was to limit the loss of wetlands. Today I'm going to announce a new policy and a new goal for our country. Instead of just limiting our losses, we will expand the wetlands of America.

I appreciate Paul very much. He's a—obviously a good manager. First of all, he loves what he does. He cares deeply about the mission. He's got such a joyous smile on his face that he must be an easy fellow to work with. And I want to thank him for his hospitality. He didn't even complain about the size of my entourage or the imposition that we must have imposed on Paul and his great staff.

I also want to thank the staff for working hard to make sure this slice of heaven is as beautiful as possible. I appreciate so very much State Senator Paul Davis joining us today—Senator. Yes, thanks for coming.

I suspect there are some local officials who are here. Thanks for being here. I like to remind local officials to make sure that you empty the garbage and fill the potholes. *[Laughter]*

I had the honor of meeting Ray and Becky Davis at the airport. They're local citizens. The reason I bring up Ray and Becky is because they're the parents of three sons who have—are now wearing the uniform of the United States Military: Sergeant Graham Davis, Marine Corps, thank you, sir—Private First Class Stewart Davis, who is now in Afghanistan. Make sure, Graham, that you—make sure you tell your brother, Stewart, and brother Bradley that the people not only applauded you, but they applauded them as well.

I want to thank the Davis family for their steadfast support of working to secure this—of raising sons who are working hard to secure this country. These have been tough times for America, but we're doing the right thing. We're spreading freedom and peace so that our children can grow up in a peaceful world.

What's interesting about this year's Earth Day is that it falls in the middle of National Volunteer Week. This week we honor the 64 million Americans who volunteer. And one

of my responsibilities is to call people to a higher calling. If you're not volunteering, do so. It will make somebody else's life better, including your own. But what makes this beautiful part of the world go is the 400 volunteers who work here—the 400 volunteers who are exercising their responsibility as citizens to make this beautiful part of the world even more beautiful and more meaningful.

And so, first, I want to thank all the volunteers who have taken time out of their life to make this such a special spot. Particularly, I want to thank Frank and Carol Heller. I met Frank and Carol at the airport when I landed here in Wells—in Sanford. And I gave them the President's Volunteer Service Award. I did so because of their strong commitment and work here, but I suspect they'll say they received the award on behalf of the other 398 people who make this such a special place. Thank you all for working hard here.

And I saw firsthand why you like to come. It's 1,600 acres of salt marshes and beaches and forests and freshwater wetlands. The Wells Reserve is an example of how committed people come together to not only protect but to improve the environment. It's a good example of what I'm going to talk about here in a little bit.

Community and corporate partners, along with the Federal Government, are working on the Drakes Island marsh restoration—community and corporate partners. In other words, in order to make sure the restoration works, it requires more than just Government. It requires a buy-in by community partners. It requires a buy-in by corporate America. See, corporate America has a responsibility to the communities in which they live. They've got the responsibility to tell the truth when it comes to their balance sheets, and they've got the responsibility to contribute to the quality of the communities in which they live.

The Laudholm Farm, where so much environmental education and research takes place, is supported by a private trust. You support the private trust in Kennebunkport, don't you, Mom? So do I. Ray Bradbury—we've got Bradbury's Market. [*Laughter*] The guy who owns it has put together a land con-

servation trust in Kennebunkport. We're proud supporters of it.

In other words, citizens can make a significant difference in improving the quality of the environment, just like those who have done so at the Laudholm Farm. And at the Little Estuary, I saw the volunteers working on platforms that allow students and researchers to view the marsh to understand the marsh without harming the grasses or the shoreline.

There are good people working together for this reserve, for the sake of wildlife, for the sake of understanding and knowledge, and for the sake of future generations of people who are fortunate enough to come here.

The work you're doing here to preserve wetlands is an important part of a national commitment. For many years, our Nation has been working to prevent the net loss of wetlands, and there's a reason why. America's wetlands are the habitat for thousands of species of wildlife. Just hang out, out in these wetlands out here, and you'll know what I'm talking about.

Up to half of all North American bird species nest or feed in wetlands. About half of all threatened and endangered species use wetlands. There's some endangered species using the wetlands right here on this piece of property. Our wetlands help to trap pollution. What I bet a lot of people don't understand is the wetlands help to clean the water as well. They reduce the impact of floods. Wetlands stabilize shore areas. As well wetlands provide recreational opportunities for guys like me who like to fish and for people like my wife who like to watch birds.

Wetlands have been called the nurseries of life, and their well-being is vital to the health of our environment. Three decades ago, the United States was losing almost 500,000 acres of wetlands each year. Americans understood that couldn't be sustained, and so the Nation began to take action. Every level of government, joined by landowners and conservationists, worked hard to turn the situation around. In other words, it took a collaborative effort of people who cared about the environment.

Our Government began to provide substantial financial incentives for landowners to

return farmland to wetlands. Taxpayer dollars have been matched by States and localities and conservation groups. It's the classic public-private partnership for the good of the environment.

Our national commitment to wetlands is showing good progress—really better than good progress when you think about the fact that we were losing a half-a-million acres a year not so many years ago.

According to figures announced today by the Department of Agriculture, we have greatly reduced the annual loss of wetlands. And that's a positive development. We're nearing a longstanding goal of actually restoring as many acres of wetlands that are lost. The figures show that on agricultural lands, we've seen some gains for the first time, which leads me to believe we can do a better job in the Nation if we focus our attention.

So today I'm committing our Government to a new policy. We will move beyond the no net loss of wetlands in America to having an overall increase of Americans' wetlands over the next 5 years.

We can achieve this goal. It is a realistic goal. To do so, we will work to restore and to improve and to protect at least 3 million acres of wetlands over the next 5 years. First, we will restore at least one million acres of wetlands that do not exist today. Through expanded incentive and partnership measures such as the Department of Ag's Wetlands Reserve Program and through the new grants under the Interior Department's North American Wetlands Conservation Act, which, by the way, was signed by your husband, my dad.

Listen, there's a lot of things we can do through these programs. We can set streams back on their natural courses, allowing wetlands to return. We can provide incentives to our farmers and ranchers to stop cultivating areas that were once wetlands and make them wetlands again.

A good way to make sure we restore wetlands is to take those lands that were once wetlands and provide incentives to the landowners and say, "Here's an opportunity for you to contribute to the increase of wetlands in America for the good of the country, for the good of the habitat of our country, for the good of the wildlife of our country." All

these efforts will add to the beauty of our Nation and provide habitats for millions of birds and fish.

Second, we will improve the quality of another million acres of existing wetlands through expanded public-private efforts such as the Interior Department's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. I know we've got some people from Fish and Wildlife here today. I want to thank you for serving you country so admirably. I appreciate your service.

As well we will use NOAA's Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Program. I know we've also got NOAA representatives here too. I thank you for coming, and thanks for your good work.

Too many wetlands are degraded and can no longer support healthy wildlife populations, so they need to be restored to health. In other words, they need to be nurtured. They were once wetlands areas, and they need to be nurtured back to be a wetland.

Tomorrow I'm going down to Florida. I'll be seeing Brother. I'll be glad to give him your best. *[Laughter]* And we're going to go to the Everglades. It's a great wetlands area. The problem is, is that the wetland—the Everglades have been invaded by a—by certain plant species, nonnative plants, that are going to choke out the wetlands.

And so one of the things we're going to do is to encourage programs that will remove these invasive species so that native vegetation can return and the wetlands can be revitalized. In other words, we can restore wetlands so they function better, so they function as the Almighty wanted them to function in the first place. As they become healthier—*[applause]*.

And finally, we will protect an additional one million acres of wetlands that are currently at risk by increasing grants for land protection programs and by making it easier for farmers and other landowners to participate in these programs. We'll encourage these landowners to place easements on their wetlands, on the wetland portion of their property, so that migratory birds can rest on their long journey. In other words, with proper Government policy, we can encourage

proper habits by private landowners to understand that they can do a better job with their land.

We'll do the ducks and other birds a good turn by not only improving the lands—the wetlands but also the lands near the wetlands. It's one thing to have a good wetland, but they've got to have a place for the ducks to nest as well. And so the program is to be wise about the incentive programs we put in place. I'm confident these measures will be not only appreciated by people but by birds. [*Laughter*]

To meet the goal of wetland expansion, the Government must commit money, and my administration is prepared to do so. The first thing we've done in the—2002, I signed the farm bill. And one of the most important aspects of the farm bill was the conservation titles. It was a significant expansion of Federal money available to encourage people to expand areas of their farms and ranches, like wetlands.

And secondly, the budget I proposed—or sent to Congress, proposes to spend \$349 million on two key wetlands programs, which is an increase of more than 50 percent since I first took office. These monies will help. These monies will provide proper incentive for good conservation measures.

But the thing I think is very important to emphasize here is that good conservation and good stewardship will happen when people say, "I'm just not going to rely upon the Government to be the solution to the problem." I've come here because this is a great example of people seizing the initiative, a great example of where the Government can help but not stand in the way of commonsense policies that will make a significant difference to the wetlands and the native species. And it sends a clear signal to everybody else around our country that if you want to be a responsible citizen, do something about the quality of the life in the community in which you live.

It's my honor to come here today to celebrate this fantastic project, to remind our fellow citizens that we all have got responsibilities, to declare that the Federal Government has set a new, important goal of increasing the net—the wetlands all across America, and to ask God's blessings on this beautiful

part of the world and the people who live here.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:12 p.m. at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve. In his remarks, he referred to Paul Dest, manager, Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Remarks at the President's Environmental Youth Awards Ceremony

April 22, 2004

The President. Thank you all for coming. Welcome. Please be seated. Welcome to the East Garden. We're glad you're here. This is a perfect place to honor some of America's finest young stewards of the environment. By working hard to preserve our natural surroundings, you've made important contributions to your communities and to our Nation. We're really glad you're here, and I appreciate the great example you're setting for others.

Steve, thanks for being here. I'm honored that you've accepted the assignment of becoming the Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. That's a big job, and I'm glad you're going to do it.

Mr. Johnson. Thank you, sir.

The President. Thank you. I know that your wife, Debbie, and Matthew are with us here today too, and I'm glad they're here. Good to see you.

I want to congratulate the award winners from 10 EPA regions from around the country. Thanks for what you're doing. I want to thank your family members who are here with you, your teachers who are here with you, your buddies who are here with you. Thanks for coming.

I also want to thank the EPA Regional Administrators. I see a couple of recognizable faces here. I'm glad you all are here. I appreciate your hard work for the country.

The award winners today span the entire country, from Barrackville, West Virginia, to Shakopee, Minnesota, to Albuquerque, New Mexico. You've cleaned parks. You've restored wetlands, and you've organized conservation projects. As volunteers, you've given your time and talents in many different

ways, and together you're helping to achieve a great national goal, to protect and pass along the great natural beauty of our country.

Showing concern for the environment is one way of showing your love for America. Americans are fortunate to be able to breathe clean air and enjoy the beautiful, diverse landscapes of our vast continent. By getting your hands dirty and helping to clean up your communities, you're putting your ideals into action, and you're making America a better place. I hope you know that.

As each of you have learned, good stewardship can be a lot of fun. Working outdoors is a chance to clear your mind or to get exercise or to be with your family and your friends. That's one of the reasons I like to go down to Crawford. I like to get outdoors. I like to clear my mind. I like to be with my family and my friends. And I like to work on our ranch to restore native grasses and to make our hardwood trees flourish.

I'm looking forward to going down to be with a family member tomorrow, as a matter of fact. See, my brother is the Governor of Florida—Jeb—and we're going down to clear out some nonnative plants from the Everglade area so that the wetlands can be more healthy and flourish more. I'm going to make sure he pulls his weight, too. *[Laughter]*

The other thing you're doing is you're setting an important example of service. I don't know if you know this or not, but this week is called National Volunteer Week. It's a time to recognize millions of citizens who are working hard to improve the communities in which they live. After September the 11th, 2001, I called on our fellow citizens to dedicate 4,000 hours or 2 years over the course of their lives to volunteer work. That's what you're doing, and I appreciate that a lot.

I started what's called the USA Freedom Corps to provide information about volunteer opportunities in communities. And if people are interested, they ought to go on the Internet at www.usafreedomcorps.gov. And you can find out how to help if you're interested in environmental projects; they'll be listed there. If you're interested in ways to feed the hungry, you can find that too.

You've proven with your projects that many small acts taken together can add up

to something big, improving the environment, while people who volunteer to love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves are part of doing small gestures, which makes America a better place. Your efforts are helping to ensure a cleaner world for future generations. I want to thank you for your hard work. I look forward to congratulating you as you come up to receive your awards.

Those of us in Government must uphold our responsibilities as well. Today I went to Maine. I saw my mother, I might add. I announced a new goal for our country, and that is to expand the wetlands of America so that we have better habitat for wildlife, wetlands that are important to trap pollution and clean water and stabilize whole areas. For decades this country was losing wetlands, and yet, with sound policy here and fostering cooperation between landowners and conservationists, we've not only slowed the loss of wetlands; I know that over the next 5 years, we can increase the number of wetlands to 3 million, over a 5-year period.

To meet this goal, we're going to have to make sure that Congress passes reasonable budgets. In my budget, I've proposed \$349 million on two key wetland programs, which would be an increase of more than 50 percent since 2001. As well the farm bill I passed had a major conservation title to it, which will encourage farmers to replenish the wetlands on their lands so that we can meet an important national goal.

I'm really looking forward to saying hello to you and thanking you. I'm told this is an impressive group of young leaders. You should be proud of your achievements. You're setting a good example for your fellow citizens. It leads me to be confident about the future of the environment because you're contributing so mightily.

So thanks for coming, and now it's my honor to welcome Steve Johnson to the podium to announce the awards.

[At this point, Acting Deputy Administrator Johnson introduced the award recipients from each region, and the President congratulated them.]

The President. Thank you, sir. Welcome. Glad you all are here. Thanks for coming.

May God bless you, and may God bless your families, and may God continue to bless our great country. Thanks for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:48 p.m. in the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report of the
National Science Board**

April 22, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with 42 U.S.C. 1863(j)(1), I transmit herewith a report prepared for the Congress and the Administration by the National Science Board entitled, "Science and Engineering Indicators—2004." This report represents the sixteenth in the series examining key aspects of the status of science and engineering in the United States.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 22, 2004.

**Remarks at Rookery Bay National
Estuarine Research Reserve in
Naples, Florida**

April 23, 2004

Thank you all very much. Thanks for coming. Please be seated if you have a chair. If you don't have a chair, don't be seated. [Laughter] So yesterday I was in Wells, Maine, talking about the environment, and my mother showed up. [Laughter] So today I am in South Florida talking about the environment, and my brother shows up. [Laughter] And you all showed up. Thanks for coming. It's great to be here at the Rookery Bay Reserve. What a special place. I like to call it a little slice of heaven.

This week we observed Earth Day. And one way to honor the day is to honor those citizens in our country who understand the definition of stewardship, citizens who work to make sure that our environment is as clean as possible. And that's what we're here to do today.

It also happens to be National Volunteer Week. So, yes. And what is easy to understand is one of the reasons why the Rookery is such a place, is because of the volunteers who have come on a daily basis to make this a special place. My first task is to thank you for being such good stewards of Florida's natural beauty. Thank you for not only protecting it, but thank you for enhancing it. And a person who gets a lot of credit for that is my brother. Jeb has been a—[applause].

I spent some quality time with Gary Lytton, who is the director here, by the way. Gary, I want to thank you for your service. Gary is a joyful person—[laughter]—because he likes what he's doing, and he loves this part of the world. And it's clear that there's a great sense of ownership when you talk to Gary. Gary is interested in not only preserving beauty; he's interested in learning as much as possible to share the knowledge across our country.

He's also pretty good about lining up these volunteers and making sure they work. [Laughter] I said, "Does Gary keep you working?" He said, "You bet." [Laughter] That's good. That's called leadership. But Gary, thanks for what you're doing. He tells me that much of the property bought here is a result of the bonding issue that Jeb pushed to make sure that much of the great State of Florida is protected and preserved throughout the years to come.

I know there's a lot of politics when it comes to the environment. But what I like to do is focus on results, and you've got yourself a results-oriented Governor when it comes to protecting this environment.

And I know Colleen is doing good work. Good to see you again, Colleen. Thanks for coming out to say hello.

We traveled down from Washington with two Members of the United States Congress. First, from down the road and kind of over would be Mario Diaz-Balart. Where are you, Mario? Thank you. I appreciate you coming. And finally, a person who has earned a great reputation on a variety of fronts, one as a strong believer and supporter of national security and the intelligence-gathering services of our country but also a man who has got a fantastic reputation for being careful and thoughtful about the environment here on

the West Coast of Florida, and that's Porter Goss. Thank you, Porter.

I want to thank the mayor who is here, Mayor Bill Barnett. Where are you, Mayor? Yes, thank you, buddy. Thanks for coming. I'm proud you're here. My only advice is to make sure you empty the garbage on a regular basis—[*laughter*—maybe fill a pothole or two. [*Laughter*] But thanks for coming. I think I'd rather be President than mayor. At least my phone number isn't in the phonebook. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate all the other local officials who are here. I know you care as much as the mayor does and Porter does about making sure the environment is strong, the protection process is in place so that our natural beauty can be enhanced as this part of the world becomes more populated.

I want to thank David Eisner, who is the CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Thank you for coming, David. I see David. Appreciate you coming. David is in charge of a lot of important programs, one of which is AmeriCorps. I'm a strong believer in AmeriCorps.

I want to thank the—where are my AmeriCorps buddies? There they are. Did you change shirts? [*Laughter*] You look too pretty. [*Laughter*] I was out there watching them help get rid of the invasees—invasive grasses and species that is threatening the watersheds and threatening the wetlands. They're doing good work. These are good kids from around the country who are dedicating time to help America, whether it be teaching kids how to read and write, add and subtract or out here in the hinterlands of South Florida, protecting the environment. It's really neat to be with you all. I want to thank you for your service, thank you for your hard work, and may God continue to bless you and your families as you pursue your dreams.

As Jeb mentioned, my administration is committed to conserving Florida's natural beauty. In January 2002, I joined your Governor in signing an important agreement. In order to make sure enough fresh water would go to the Everglades, the Federal Government and the State agreed to install large pumps and build canals and large freshwater storage areas. In other words, my administra-

tion recognized the importance of the Everglades to not only the State of Florida but to our country, and we will continue to work with Jeb and the State to make sure the Everglades is vibrant, alive, and available for future generations of Americans.

In 2002, the Federal Government bought back the rights to oil and gas development in parts of the Everglades and in the Destin Dome area offshore from Pensacola. This action helped to protect the Big Cypress National Preserve, the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, and the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge. As you can see, there is no ambiguity in my position on drilling off the coast of Florida.

We have done more. Working with community leaders, this State and the Federal Government in 2001 established the Tortugas Ecological Reserve, a 200 square mile area west of the Florida Keys. This is one of the largest protected marine areas in America. This preserve of coral reefs and sea grasses is home to countless species of fish and wildlife, and protecting it was vital to the future, as we allow the public to enjoy its beauty.

Now we've been working with the State of Florida. We've been working hard because we share a common goal to conserve our environment, to do our duty as stewards of this beautiful part of the world.

Here at Rookery Bay, you see how important wetlands are to protecting 150 species of birds and many threatened and endangered animals. Across Florida, citizens understand that the wetlands are essential to a healthy, diverse environment and to the tourism and recreation that bring millions of visitors to your State every year. In other words, a good environment will help the tourism industry to continue to flourish. The two go hand in hand. Many people of Florida understand that dynamic. I certainly understand it as well.

Of all the coastal wetlands in the lower 48 States, 20 percent are right here in Florida. This is a legacy we need to protect and pass along. And so, today I want to talk about how the Government can do its part—that is, the Federal Government.

Yesterday in Maine, I announced an ambitious national goal. First of all, I don't set

goals unless I think we can meet them, and this is an ambitious goal that we can meet. For years, our Nation has sought to slow the loss of wetlands. Now I believe we must change that goal to one that says, "We'll have an overall increase in wetlands every year. Instead of just reducing loss, the goal of this country must be to increase wetlands."

To accomplish this objective, my administration will work to restore, to improve, and to protect at least 3 million acres of wetlands over the next 5 years. First part of the strategy is to restore at least one million acres of wetlands that do not exist today. Through expanded incentive and partnership measures such as the Department of Agriculture's Wetland Reserve Program, and through new grants under the Interior Department's North American Wetlands Conservation Act, we can expand wetlands. By the way, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Jeb, was signed by Dad.

The idea is to provide incentives and grant money to allow wetlands to return where they once existed. And it's possible to do so. It's very feasible to do so. We can provide incentives, for example, to farmers and ranchers to stop cultivating areas that were once wetlands, and we will do just that. This is a commonsense way of expanding the wetlands across America.

Secondly, we will improve the quality of another million acres of existing wetlands through expanded public-private efforts such as the Interior Department's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as the use of NOAA's Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Program.

Before I—I'm going to expand on that—I do want to thank the NOAA folks who are here. I'm proud you're here. Thank you for your good work. Yes, I saw you over there. I thought for a minute it said NCAA, then I realized it said NOAA. *[Laughter]*

I also want to thank the folks who work for the Ag Department who are here, and I want to thank the folks who work for the Interior Department who are here. Thank you for being openminded as you work in a collaborative way with State and local government.

You see, too many wetlands are degraded and can no longer support healthy wildlife

populations. So they need to be restored, and that's what this aspect of the strategy will do. That's what's happening back over here. These plants invaded, these nonnatives came, and they're making it difficult for the wetlands to flourish. And so we've got to put programs in place that help Mother Nature. See, Mother Nature can't do it itself. Mother Nature can't retake the land unless there's a little help from us.

And so the second phase is to make sure the wetlands that have been degraded are revitalized and restored. The Everglades is a great wetlands area. So you hear me talking about wetlands, think Everglades, as well as other parts of this State.

The problem the Everglades—one of the problems has been that nonnative plants have invaded. And so one of the things we're going to do is encourage programs that will remove the invasive species to allow the native vegetation to return. It sounds simple, but it's hard work, and it requires Federal Government support. And I'm willing to dedicate that support because I understand how important wetlands are.

Third, we'll protect an additional one million acres of wetlands that are currently at risk by increasing grants for land protection programs and by making it easier for farmers and other landowners to participate in these programs.

We'll encourage landowners to place easements on their wetlands—on the wetland portion of their property. That'll help migratory birds find nesting areas. That'll be good for the ducks. That'll be good for other birds that are traveling long distances in their winter—on their winter flights.

It is vital that there be good education, but it's vital that there also be good incentive programs to remind landowners about a responsibility that they have and the capacity to make a difference in the wildlife of our country.

Some people need to be reminded—one of my favorite phrases: If you own your own farm or ranch, every day is Earth Day, by the way. Laura and I are doing our bit by restoring natural grasses to our ranch. She wants to become a Little Blue Stem grass seed distributor so that others will grow native grasses. It's amazing what happens when

we restored our little part of heaven to native grasses. Bobwhite quail are returning. Birds are showing up that we hadn't seen before. It's a fantastic experience. It's the same thing you are doing here, and it's the same concept we've got to do to encourage others who own their land, to understand the incredible opportunity they have to make a vital contribution to the wetlands of our country and to the environmental prosperity of our country as well.

To meet the goal of wetland expansion, we've got to commit money, of course. You just can't lay out a goal unless they're willing to support. And my administration is prepared to do so, as I said. We did a good thing in the farm bill, the 2002 farm bill, which is still in place. One of the most important aspects of the farm bill was the conservation title. It was a strong expansion of Federal money available to encourage farmers to expand areas on their farms, like wetlands. It is an important part of meeting this national goal.

As well I'm sending a budget up to Congress—or have sent a budget up to Congress for 2005 that proposes a—\$349 million expenditures on two key wetlands programs, which, by the way, is an increase of 50 percent since 2001. In other words, we're going to help people restore wetlands. It's in our national interest we do so, and it's an important priority that we get it done.

Citizens have an important part—a role to play in this as well, and that's—it's really important for those of us in positions of responsibility to remind people that you can't have good environmental stewardship if you rely solely on the Federal Government. I mean, the Federal Government can help, but we're the land of the mighty lawsuit. *[Laughter]* There's all kinds of lawsuits up there. The best way to get things done is to be a helper and encourage people, just like is doing here. I mean, this is a good example. It's why we came here: It's working. We came here to herald what's possible when all levels of government and local citizens decide to make a difference in the community in which they live.

And so today when I landed, in order to send a clear signal about how important volunteerism is, I presented the President's Vol-

unteer Service Award to Neala Hoch. Where are you, Neala? Oh, there you are. Thanks. Thanks for coming. She's taking time out of her life to be involved with Keep America Beautiful and its affiliates, for 20 years. She's a citizen who deserves our thanks, just like many of you all do.

You know, they talk about America's strength a lot of times, and they say, "Well, America is strong because of our military." And by the way, I intend to keep the military strong to keep the peace. Or they say, "We're strong because we're prosperous." And we're getting prosperous, and we need to be even more prosperous, and I think we will be. But the real strength is in the hearts and souls of our citizens. That's where our true strength. That's why we're a strong nation.

And it happens—and that strength is displayed here, or it's displayed when somebody says to someone, "I love you. What can I do to help you?" It's displayed when people feed the hungry. It's displayed when people provide shelter to the homeless. The great strength of America is displayed when somebody mentors a child. That's the strength of the country. And the best way that happens is when volunteers step up and say, "I care about the community in which I live, and I intend to do something about it."

And so today, at National Volunteer Week, I want to thank a member of the army of compassion and all the rest of you who are soldiers in the armies of compassion. I want to thank you for what you do to make America a better place.

And by the way, if you're interested in volunteering, I've set up what's called USA Freedom Corps. It's a clearinghouse for projects—yes, there you go. It's a clearinghouse for—a place where people can find—to match their desires with what is needed in the communities all across America. You can find it at www.usafreedomcorps.gov. See, all you got to do is get on this web page, and it will link you up to different opportunities, whether it be Scouting or whether it be environmental protection. There's all kinds of opportunities across the country just asking for your help.

So on National Volunteer Week, I call upon our fellow citizens to serve our country by helping somebody in need. And by doing

so, this society will change, one heart and one soul at a time. No, the strength of this country is the fact that we're a nation full of compassionate, decent, honorable, loving citizens. And it is my honor to be the President of such a country.

May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:44 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Gary Lytton, director, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Colleen M. Castille, secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; and Mayor Bill Barnett of Naples, FL.

Memorandum on Determination and Certification Under Section 8(b) of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act

April 23, 2004

Presidential Determination No. 2004-30

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination and Certification under Section 8(b) of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act

Pursuant to section 8(b) of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note), as amended (Public Law 107-24), I hereby determine and certify that Libya has fulfilled the requirements of United Nations Security Council Resolution 731, adopted January 21, 1992, United Nations Security Council Resolution 748, adopted March 31, 1992, and United Nations Security Council Resolution 883, adopted November 11, 1993.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination and certification to the appropriate congressional committees and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 17

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

April 18

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

April 19

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero of Spain to discuss the withdrawal of Spanish military forces from Iraq. He then had a telephone conversation with President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa to congratulate him on his party's April 14 election victory and to discuss the situation in the Middle East.

Later in the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Ahmed Al-Samarrai, president, and Iman Sabeeh, member of the executive office, National Olympic Committee of Iraq.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Harrisburg, PA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Patrick Leonard. He then traveled to Hershey, PA. Later, he traveled to Pittsburgh, PA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Betty Pakula.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

April 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Buffalo, NY. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with former President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain. Upon arrival in Buffalo, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Frank Brusino.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to New York City.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, in the Residence, he met with Republican congressional leaders to discuss legislative priorities.

April 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing followed by a National Security Council meeting. Later, he met with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

April 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Wells, ME, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteers Franklin and Carol-Ann Heller. He then toured the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve and participated in a marsh saltwater testing project.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a major disaster in Massachusetts and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding beginning on April 1 and continuing.

April 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Naples, FL, where, at the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Nealedene Hoch. He then toured the reserve and participated in an invasive plant species removal project.

In the afternoon, at a private residence in Naples, the President attended a Victory 2004 luncheon.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Coral Gables, FL.

In the evening, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President declared a major disaster in Illinois and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on April 20 and continuing.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 19

Thomas Fingar,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research), vice Carl W. Ford, Jr.

Susanne Hale,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia.

Constance Berry Newman,
Assistant Secretary of State (African Affairs), to be a member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for a term expiring September 27, 2009, vice Walter H. Kansteiner, resigned.

Anne W. Patterson,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

Anne W. Patterson,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Withdrawn April 19

Walter H. Kansteiner,
Assistant Secretary of State (African Affairs), to be a member of the Board of Directors

of the African Development Foundation for a term expiring September 27, 2003, vice George Edward Moose, term expired, which was sent to the Senate on January 9, 2003.

Submitted April 20

Virginia Maria Hernandez Covington, of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, vice Ralph W. Nimmons, Jr., deceased.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 19

Fact sheet: President Bush Calls for Renewing the USA PATRIOT Act

Released April 20

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Progress in Liberia

Released April 21

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Cyprus Settlement

Released April 22

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan and White House Council on Environmental Quality Chairman Jim Connaughton

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 2057

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Massachusetts

Fact sheet: President Announces Wetlands Initiative on Earth Day

Released April 23

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Trent Duffy and White House Council on Environmental Quality Chairman Jim Connaughton

Statement by the Press Secretary: U.S. Eases Economic Embargo Against Libya

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Illinois

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved April 22

S. 2057 / Public Law 108–220

To require the Secretary of Defense to reimburse members of the United States Armed Forces for certain transportation expenses incurred by the members in connection with leave under the Central Command Rest and Recuperation Leave Program before the program was expanded to include domestic travel